

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Goodbye 24th Street, Hello Cesar Chavez Boulevard?

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

In mid-March, only a few shop owners and even fewer Noe Valley residents appeared to know about San Francisco Supervisor Bill Maher's campaign to rename 24th Street after Cesar Chavez, the late United Farm Workers union leader and Maher's lifelong friend.

In February, Maher proposed renaming only the portion of 24th Street in the Mission District between Dolores Street and Potrero Avenue. But after hearing objections from lower 24th Street merchants and residents, Maher told the *Voice* he is now considering modifying his proposal to rename all of 24th Street Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

"Why segregate the street?" Maher asked. "Frankly, I thought it would be easier to get support if we went with just a portion of the street. But Cesar did not segregate in life, why should he in death?"

Says Nicolette Noyes Houseman, owner of China Books, a fixture on lower 24th Street for 30 years, "There is no question that we all feel that Cesar Chavez deserves the recognition of having a street named after him—a whole street, not just a portion of it.

"[But] the idea of changing the name of 24th Street only between Dolores and Potrero would create much confusion and continue to further fragment and di-

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Supervisor Bill Maher originally proposed to honor Cesar Chavez by renaming the eastern half of 24th Street after the labor leader (from Dolores Street to Potrero Avenue). But now he's lobbying to change all of 24th to Cesar Chavez Boulevard. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

A Visit with the 'Olive Lady' Of 25th Street

By Loren J. Bialik

Dozens of olive trees line the streets of Noe Valley. Their fallen black fruit stains the sidewalks until the winter rains come and wash the splatter away. Few residents recognize these trees for the delicacies they offer. And those who do might not want to take the time to prepare the olives for eating, which can take months. After all, we live in a time when microwave and instant food is the norm.

But 25th Street resident Despina Kokalis, known to locals as "The Olive Lady," doesn't feel this way. She and her husband planted two olive trees on the sidewalk in front of their house in 1983. In the spring, when the trees are abloom with flowers, Kokalis, 69, waits anxiously for autumn, when the olives ripen and she can prepare her favorite fare. If there's anything you want to know about picking and preparing Greek-style olives, she's the person to ask.

And if you happen to be one of her neighbors, or even a *Voice* writer stopping in for an interview, don't be surprised if she plies you with Greek coffee, cookies, plant cuttings, and, of course, olives. Sitting in Kokalis' home talking, viewing family photos, listening to the canary sing, and enjoying the heaps of food she offers—all these things take one back in time, to an idyllic childhood visit to grandma's house.

Born in Mykonos, Greece, a small island in the Aegean Sea, Kokalis lived the first 35 years of her life on a farm, where she and her six siblings helped their mother raise horses, cows, and sheep, while their father labored on ships in Athens. The family also grew vegetables, and Kokalis' appreciation for gardening, including her love of olives, sprang to life in this environment. She learned to prepare olives by watching her mother.

Since Mykonos was a rural area, home to only about 4,000 people, its school only went up to the sixth grade. Students who wanted to continue their education had to go to Athens. Kokalis was needed at home, and so after the sixth grade she was taught to sew as a means of earning a living.

The island lifestyle was healthy, but also a constant struggle. The farm had no electricity, and there was always work to be done. A normal day meant getting up

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Parents' Search for Missing Son Stretches into Third Year

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Peter Radcliff has lived most of his life in Noe Valley, in a yellow two-story home on Castro Street that his parents purchased in 1964, when he was 4 years old.

A graduate of Stanford University with a passion for political activism, body-surfing, and tennis, Peter isn't much different from the other educated, upwardly mobile, socially concerned thirtysome-

things who enjoy sipping coffee, noshing bagels, and shopping on 24th Street.

Until a few years ago, the brown-haired, brown-eyed Peter often spent his evenings at the Rat & Raven bar, discussing the events of the day, drinking beer, and smoking cigarettes with his housemates. Then, on Aug. 30, 1991, while attending a conference of political activists in rural western Massachusetts, Peter Radcliff disappeared. His family and friends have not seen him since.

Unlike most missing persons cases, however, this one did not immediately raise suspicions of foul play.

That's because Peter, who was the eldest of three children, is one of thousands of adults in the United States afflicted with bipolar manic-depressive illness, a disorder that causes wild mood swings and erratic behavior. He left the Massachusetts conference wearing someone else's clothing, without his glasses, wallet, money, or driver's license—and perhaps most worrisome of all—without his antidepressant medication.

Peter Radcliff was first diagnosed as manic-depressive in 1983, after disappearing from U.C. San Diego, where he was pursuing a doctorate degree in political science. He spent seven months living on the street, making use of shelters, soup kitchens, libraries, and the hospitality of friends.



This 1990 snapshot of Peter Radcliff is one of the most recent his parents have of their son, who's been missing since August 1991.

His father, an ethics professor at San Francisco State University who is also named Peter, says his son phoned home or visited "every so often" during his months on the street. He lived from time to time in People's Park or Golden Gate Park, slept on the beach near Big Sur, or stayed with friends in San Diego or Venice Beach. But he refused psychiatric help.

"If you're manic," explains Peter's father, "you feel extraordinarily powerful. You have a lot of energy and feel you can do anything."

Peter's mother, Diana, says, "Peter even thought he could jump and fly through the air. One time he jumped and really hurt himself."

Adds Peter's father, "He was very obsessive about certain things, too. For example, he believed everybody should be free and that everything should be free. Consequently, for Peter, there was no such thing as trespassing because the land belonged to everybody. He believed that cats and dogs shouldn't have to wear collars, and so he'd take the collars off cats and dogs in the neighborhood. He even let some guy's parrot go free."

By Christmas 1983, though, Peter's parents convinced him to see a psychiatrist. "Peter still didn't believe there was anything wrong with him," recalls Diana, "but he said just to please me, he would

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This family photo shows Peter Radcliff in his younger, more carefree days, when he was a regular at the Rat & Raven on 24th Street.

Supe Now Wants To Rename All Of 24th Street

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vide upper 24th Street from lower 24th Street. It would also signify that only the area considered to be the Latin part of 24th Street would be changed to Cesar Chavez Boulevard, negating the international support for this wonderful man."

Maher said he had been making the rounds in Noe Valley, talking to merchants and neighbors about his proposal. However, most of the shopkeepers and residents the *Voice* contacted were unaware of Maher's campaign.

"I hadn't heard of the proposal," said Al Carlson, co-owner of Caruso Wine and Liquor on 24th Street. "I guess I'd be neutral on the whole thing. Cesar Chavez was a great man. He certainly deserves to be honored. But I'm not sure why we'd choose 24th Street. I wouldn't stand in opposition of the idea, but I also wouldn't go out of my way to support it."

"I don't like the idea," said James Ortiz, a Valley Street resident. "I've lived all my life in Noe Valley and have always known 24th Street as 24th Street. I understand we need to pay respect to a man like Cesar Chavez, but why didn't we do it when he was alive?"

Although 14 Latino organizations, including Mission Cultural Center, the Latino Business Association, and the California Hispanic Publishers Association, are endorsing Maher's proposal, some merchants along lower 24th Street think the supervisor should have picked another street.

Noyes Houseman of China Books suggests renaming Folsom Street after Chavez, particularly since Hawthorne School, located on Folsom, was recently renamed Cesar Chavez School. "Folsom is such a beautiful street now with the rows of beautiful trees all the way along it, and it's definitely more of a boulevard than 24th Street," she said.

Maher, on the other hand, said he selected 24th Street "because it's just a number. It's a dull, lifeless name. There is no emotional attachment to a number."

But an upper 24th Street merchant who did not want to be identified disagrees. "I don't think it's a good idea at all. In 10 years, no one is even going to know who Cesar Chavez is. Bill Maher is just doing this to get the Latino vote. The streets are numbered and that is a tradition. This is a purely political move."

Maher said he would hold a public hearing on the name change some time in May. To be approved, Maher's proposal would need the endorsement of the Board of Supervisors and signature of the mayor. A final decision could take three to eight months, said Maher, adding that if the name change were approved, the street would display two street signs—one with the old name and one with Cesar Chavez Boulevard—for five years.

"If we make the change, we will make it in a way that is the least disturbing to everyone concerned," said Maher. □

LETTERS 29¢

Street Hustlers, Go Home

Editor:

The *Noe Valley Voice* (aka Credulity Central) is still having trouble separating the homeless from the feckless. You should have learned something after the star of your previous front-page homeless story was jailed for heroin. Homelessness isn't the condition of most panhandlers, it's their lifestyle.

Your story in last month's issue ["Panhandlers Accepted as a Normal Part of the Streetscape"] lacked balance. Why not expose 24th Street's present-day junkies and alcoholics?

What about the couple of welfare cheats who are so irresponsible that all of their eight children are now wards of the state? And just how deserving is a guy who commutes here from Oakland to suck change off our street? Perhaps he deserves a song like, say, the Silhouettes' "Get a Job." Sha-na-na-na.

Contrary to the theme of your irresponsible article, those of us who care about the homeless—the real homeless—resent the street hustlers who lower our quality of life and crowd the truly needy out of limited services.

Chattanooga Street resident



Voice photo editor Charles Kennard and co-publisher Sally Smith got giggly and squeamish when the camera was turned on them at the "Portrait of a Community" exhibit at the Noe Valley Ministry last month. PHOTO BY EVA SELIGMAN-KENNARD.

Glad to see the Noe Valley I remember as a kid is still here.

Diane Hornsey

My old neighborhood—my how you have changed!

F. Burns

A wonderful chance to catch up on some of the colorful corners of Noe Valley from days gone by—Finnegan's Wake, the Meat Market Coffeehouse.... Congratulations on the show and your monthly miracle of publishing the *Voice*. Thanks!

Joseph Heinen

I am a former Noe Valley resident. I lived at Douglass and 23rd Street from 1985 to 1989. I have wonderful memories of peace and serenity. The exhibition brought back many happy feelings.

Dallis Sacher

The portraits give newcomers a vision of our neighborhood and point to neighborhood pride and love and respect for all—children, youth, the middle-aged, and the wise.

Stephanie Levin-Gervasi

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
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Great photographs. It shows a sense of community. May we never lose that feeling of love and friendship.

Elliot Barenbaum

Thanks for a great show! It makes me proud to live here.

Tara Gruzen

This is a double-barreled letter of congratulations: to Elaine Michaud of Gallery Sanchez, curator Charles Kennard, and the rest of the Noe Valley Voice staff for the excellent photo exhibit; and to the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library for its new play-reading series.

Hugh Palmerston

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Kokalis' Greek Upbringing Bears Rich Fruit

Continued from Page 1

at 4 or 5 a.m., and not getting to bed until midnight.

"Ever since I was 10, I prayed to God to send me an American guy to take me away from Mykonos," Kokalis recalls.

That man turned out to be Nick Kokalis, a Greek-American house painter who in 1961 went to the land of his birth looking for a wife. Despina says now that even though she was in her mid-30s, she was very picky about her suitors: she wanted a husband who would be kind and gentle to her. When she met Nick, it was love at first sight, and after knowing him only eight days, she accepted his marriage proposal.

Two months later, on April 5, 1961, she journeyed to San Francisco and set up house in Noe Valley, where Nick had already been living. But when Kokalis first arrived here, a gnawing fear engulfed her. Having read in books of men who charmed young women away from their home and then sold them to other men, she began to worry whether her husband "brought me here to keep me or sell me."

Her fear was soon allayed, however. Nick's intentions were genuine, and their marriage lasted 25 years, until Nick's death in 1986.

She credits the longevity of her marriage to old-fashioned, now politically incorrect values. "When your husband

says something, don't talk back," she says. In return, "your husband should take care of you and speak nicely to you."

Their marriage resulted in one child, a daughter, Angie, who resides on Jersey Street. Angie often drops in, as she did during this interview, to see how Mom is doing. She also helps her mother pick and cure olives after they mature in the fall.

According to Kokalis, olives should be harvested when they are very black. But if they haven't turned black by October or November, they should be picked anyway, segregating the green ones from the black. And lest anyone think of picking the olives from the trees in front of the Kokalis house, Angie warns, "The neighbors stand guard to make sure no one takes my mother's olives."

Because olives, unlike other fruit, are unpleasantly bitter when picked, they have to be cured. Some people use lye to remove the bitterness, but Kokalis prefers a salt method.

After carefully washing the olives, she places them in jars and pours a mixture of saltwater (one cup salt to five cups of water) over the olives, making sure they are covered. The saltwater mixture has first been boiled and then allowed to cool. For variety, she sometimes adds a cup or two of vinegar to the saltwater. And to keep the olives from popping up and getting moldy, she puts a little salad oil on top of the concoction before tightly closing the lids. She then stores them in a cool place for at least two months.

Black olives can also be cured, Kokalis says, by placing them in burlap sacks with rock salt, turning the bags each day so that the olives get mixed around. Since the juice, or brine, from the olives will drip out of the bag, it's best to keep them where they won't make a mess.

After a week, she says, you can taste them; if they remain bitter, leave them to cure a little longer. And if you want dried olives, which are very tasty with cheese, bread, and wine, leave them in the bag for several months.

Kokalis says that green olives, after they have been cured, can be mashed and put in a jar with saltwater to cover, a little olive oil, some garlic, and three or four pieces of celery. Let this mixture sit in a closed jar for a few days. Once the jar is opened, the olives should be eaten imme-



Despina Kokalis doesn't mind sharing her olives with others, including connoisseurs like Sam Fields, who lives next door on 25th Street. PHOTOS BY PAMELA GERARD

diately, as they can quickly spoil.

Kokalis has also experimented with adding oregano, lemon, garlic, and dill to olives, and notes that these tastes complement the fruit.

When not picking or curing olives, Kokalis cultivates tomatoes, zucchini, beans, cucumbers, lemons, and pumpkins in her garden. Her lemons are the size of cantaloupes, and one year she grew 40 pumpkins in her back yard.

As they did on the farm of her childhood, Kokalis uses the foods she grows

in her favorite Greek dishes, including spanakopita, moussaka, and pastitso. As an active member of the Cathedral of the Annunciation, a Greek Orthodox church on Valencia Street, Kokalis volunteers her cooking skills for their annual three-day Greek festival.

Kokalis' philosophy of life is that "people should spend more time being nice to other people." And part of being nice, for her, is cooking and giving food to friends, neighbors, and even *Noe Valley Voice* writers. □



Despina Kokalis reaps the harvest of the olive trees she and her husband Nick planted in 1983.

California Is Bursting with Olive Trees

Although Nick and Despina Kokalis planted their olive trees for the fruit (*see story, starting page 1*), "most trees found in city neighborhoods were planted for their ornamental value," according to Katherine Jones, a horticultural associate at U.C. San Francisco.

Olive trees (of the Oleaceae family) are actually evergreen trees, and have a gray-green foliage and creamy yellow flowers that bloom abundantly in mid-spring. Several varieties of olive trees can be seen in the Bay Area, including Mission and Manzanillo.

The Franciscan padres transported the trees to California from Mexico in the early 1800s. Today, 99 percent of the olives grown in the United States come from California.

For free recipes or further information on making olives, write the Cooperative Extension of the University of California, Suite 200, 625 Miramontes St., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019; or phone 726-9059. □

—Loren Bialik



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Peace Activist Becky Meyers, 1901-1994

A neighborhood memorial service will be held for Becky Veblen Meyers, a 13-year Noe Valley resident and champion for peace who died March 3 in Idaho, at the age of 92.

Rev. Carl Smith and members of Becky's family from both California and Idaho invite all of her Noe Valley friends to attend the service, which will take place at noon on Saturday, April 9, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Becky was born in Chicago on April 11, 1901, the daughter of Ann Bradley, an early suffragette. A few years later, she was adopted by her mother's second husband, the noted American economist and social theorist Thorstein Veblen.

After studying bacteriology at the University of Chicago, Becky moved to California with Veblen in 1926. She nursed her stepfather in his last years in his Menlo Park home, where he died in 1929.

Following Veblen's death, Becky stayed on in the Bay Area, living in Oakland and San Francisco. In 1938, she met and married Harry Meyers, a labor organizer and member of the International Workers of the World (IWW). The couple had three children, but in 1946 Meyers was killed in an auto accident. During her middle years, Becky continued to bring up their two girls (her son was raised by an aunt), and also found work providing child care for others. In 1977 she rented an apartment on Castro Street.

Throughout her life, Becky Meyers was active in the peace and civil rights movements. She demonstrated against atomic bomb testing, capital punishment, the House Un-American Activities Committee, race discrimination, and the Vietnam War.

Her daughter Esther Baran, a former 27th Street resident who now lives in Sandpoint, Idaho, recalls that one of Becky's favorite pastimes was making pressed-flower cards adorned with peace messages. During her years in Noe Valley, Becky became a fixture on Castro and 24th streets, handing out her cards to Muni drivers, bus passengers, local merchants, and pedestrians. (She was the subject of an affectionate portrait by neighbor Thessaly Barnett in the November 1985 edition of the *Voice*.)

Baran says her mother's beliefs were rooted in the teachings of her stepfather, who authored 11 books. Veblen's most famous work, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, published in 1899, decried "conspicuous consumption" and the dominance of materialism in American society and culture.



When this photo was taken nine years ago, 84-year-old Becky Meyers was still distributing her handmade peace cards along Castro Street. PHOTO BY MOYSHA BARNETT

Like Veblen, Becky Meyers was "an extremely dedicated person. If we have ideals and political views and fight for causes, we often let them lapse, but my mother never did. She always worked for peace and against the mistreatment of children in the world," said Baran.

Her stepfather's influence also was reflected in Becky's spartan lifestyle. "Her last years were spent in a barely furnished studio apartment, which she nonetheless thought was borderline opulent," her daughter recalled. "If you gave her anything, she was either going to give it back or give it to someone else."

Becky moved to Idaho to be with her daughter's family in 1990, and her selfless generosity was present until the end. After a series of small strokes this past fall, she was recuperating fine in a nursing home in Idaho, "but she didn't like the idea of no longer being able to do things for others," her daughter relates.

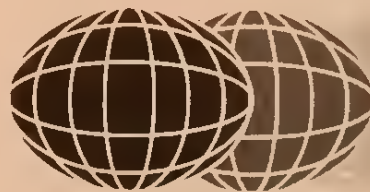
"However, a woman with Alzheimer's came into the home a little after she did, and as soon as she arrived, Becky perked up because she had someone else to care for. She immediately started worrying about this woman and whether she had a blanket and was warm enough."

In addition to Esther Baran, Becky Veblen Meyers is survived by her son, Charles Sims of Menlo Park; a brother, Tom Bevans of West Cornwall, Conn.; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Mary Ann Benner.

The family asks those who wish to make a contribution in memory of Becky Meyers to send a donation to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, Attn.: Tribute Program, 333 E. 38th St., New York, NY 10016. □

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Peter Radcliff, Where Are You?

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go to the doctor."

The psychiatrist diagnosed Peter's illness and prescribed lithium to control the symptoms of depression. "It was like a miracle," says Peter's father. "In the space of a couple of weeks after the medication had been adjusted properly, it was just Peter again. He became his old self."

By 1991, Peter Radcliff had put his life back together. He had been readmitted to graduate school, so he was planning to quit his job with the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). In fact, says Diana Radcliff, the trip to the East Coast was intended to be his last venture for CISPES.

"It's tragic," says Diana. "Attending this conference was the last thing he was going to do for this group—the last thing. He had to go to this goddamn meeting."

Both parents had seen Peter a week before he left for Massachusetts, shortly after he had returned from El Salvador for another job-related trip.

"He seemed so stable and just fine," Peter's father recalls. "The lithium maintenance had worked like a miracle. Diana and I had been concerned about him traveling to El Salvador because of the political situation. But we certainly didn't have any concerns or worries about Peter attending a conference in Massachusetts."

Now, though, the Radcliffs suspect that their son may have cut back on his medication during the conference, triggering another manic episode.

"We don't know for sure that he wasn't taking the lithium," says Peter's father. "But a common phenomenon with people who are manic-depressive is to self-medicate, to try to control their own dosage. So it's possible that at a conference like this one, he might have been 'up' a little bit, decided to reduce his medication and then gotten bushwhacked by a manic episode."

Peter spent the night before he disappeared swimming in a lake near the conference site. The next morning, a group of concerned co-workers tracked him down. Peter apologized for worrying them, said he needed a half hour by himself, and that he'd return to the conference shortly. He never came back.

A day later, he was spotted at a nearby antique store, asking for directions to Vermont. He hitched a ride with a truck driver to one of the major highways in the area. Six weeks later, on Oct. 4, another truck driver gave him a lift to Burlington, Vt. The truck driver saw a flyer on Peter's disappearance two weeks after the ride and immediately called the police. He



Although their 33-year-old son Peter disappeared with hardly a trace 2½ years ago, Castro Street residents Peter and Diana Radcliff still haven't lost hope that he'll turn up soon. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

told police that Peter said he might go to Florida after Vermont.

This identification was the last solid lead on Peter's whereabouts. The case is still an open missing persons case in both San Francisco, Peter's city of residence, and Massachusetts.

Within days of Peter's disappearance, one of his roommates traveled to Massachusetts and Vermont, posting flyers and driving rural roads in search of Peter. Another friend followed. Then Peter's father. Then a friend of the elder Radcliff.

"We had people back there for a month searching for Peter," he says. We placed ads in the local newspapers. But we didn't turn up anything."

Since then, there have been at least 10 more trips by Peter's friends and family. Last summer, Peter's father logged 11,000 miles in five weeks on a rental car, driving across country in search of Peter.

Diana is on her fourth cross-country mailing of letters and flyers to hospitals, libraries, police stations, sheriff's departments, shelters, and truck stops. After a possible sighting of Peter at a Boston soup kitchen, a friend who attends M.I.T., worked in the soup kitchen for three days, hoping to get information on Peter's whereabouts. He turned up nothing.

The Radcliffs have accepted thousands of collect calls from people who say they have leads on their son. They have made thousands of calls themselves. Most

months their phone bill totals between \$500 and \$600. They have begun renting rooms in the Castro Street home where Peter once lived to help pay for the search.

During a family vacation to New England last year, San Francisco Police Sergeant Daniel Greely, who spent six months on the case before he was transferred out of the missing persons unit, distributed the Radcliffs' flyers at police stations and truck stops. The police officer working on the case in Massachusetts has Peter's photograph posted in his office. Every couple of days, he looks at the smiling face in the photo and says, "Phone home, Peter."

"It's a roller coaster," says Peter's father. "We recently had a possible identification—someone using a shelter in St. Albans, 40 miles north of Burlington. Then we were called by a librarian who said a young man resembling Peter had been using the library and staying at a nearby shelter, but they both turned out to be false leads."

"Then there was another sighting of a homeless person, wearing a Stanford sweatshirt and bumming cigarettes off a guy, but that didn't pan out either," says Diana.

"It's been two years; he could be anywhere," says Peter's father. "He could be in jail. We've heard stories about mentally ill people being jailed for some sort

of misdemeanor and then they never get to a mental hospital and if they do get to one, they don't keep them or they don't get proper treatment. And then you hear about the mentally ill people who live in an airport waiting room for two years and nobody notices them.

"He could even be back in the Bay Area. In Noe Valley, we know there are a lot of East Coasters or people who go back and forth between the East and West coasts. It's such a needle in a haystack situation because this is such a large country, but by getting the word out, even in Noe Valley, we might turn up a lead that will help us find Peter."

The Radcliffs say that Peter's psychiatrist has told them that Peter could even be suffering from amnesia and not know who he is.

"One thing that does give us hope," says Peter's father, "is that there was this previous episode when Peter disappeared and in that episode he had no money and no identification and he survived."

"Peter is a very compassionate person," says Diana Radcliff, "and I hope some of that compassion is coming back to him." □

Thirty-three-year-old Peter Radcliff is 5 feet 8, weighing about 160 pounds. If anyone has information as to his current whereabouts, they should contact Diana and Peter Radcliff at (415) 282-5465.

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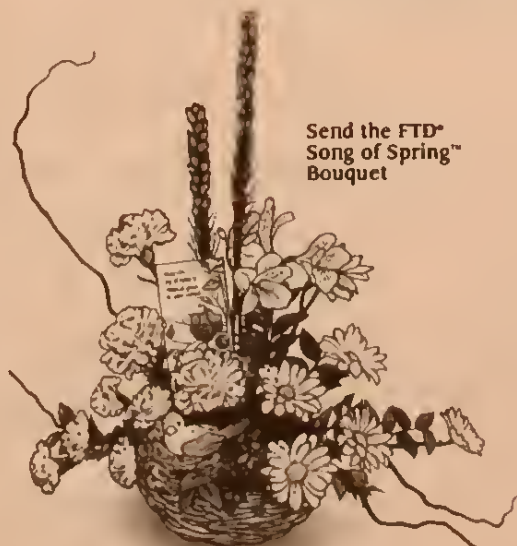
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Before sculpting the Japanese Internment Memorial, Ruth Asawa, assisted by close friend and fellow artist Nancy Thompson (left), created a scale model and collected family crests from those who were sent to internment camps during World War II. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP



Fred Korematsu is one of four people whose actual features are etched into the Japanese American Internment Memorial, the bronze monument recently completed by Noe Valley artist Ruth Asawa for the City of San Jose. PHOTO BY TERRY SCHMITT

Japanese Internment Memorial: Ruth Asawa's Personal Triumph

By Steve Steinberg

When Noe Valley sculptor Ruth Asawa was 16, the carefree life she had known as a teenager on her parents' Southern California farm came to an abrupt end.

The year was 1942, and Asawa and her family were caught up in the fear and hysteria that gripped the United States at the beginning of World War II. Along with thousands of other Japanese Americans, they were rounded up, taken to staging areas, and then sent to internment camps. In the process, they were forced to give up their homes, businesses, and possessions.

Asawa's father, who after 40 years in the state had established a thriving agricultural business in Norwalk, Calif., was picked up one Sunday morning by the FBI and carted off to a camp in Lordsburg, N.M. The rest of the family was interned in Rohwer, Ark. It wasn't until 1946 that they were reunited. (For a complete story on Ruth Asawa's experience in the camp, as told to her daughter Addie Lanier, see the December 1989 issue of the *Voice*.)

Perhaps because she was young, Asawa was able to adjust to the situation without becoming overly bitter. "You just accepted it," she says in retrospect.

After the war, she pulled her life together, completed her education, and went on to make a name for herself in the arts.

Asawa and architect husband Albert Lanier raised six children in their house on Castro Street. She designed numerous public sculptures, including the bronze mermaid fountain at Ghirardelli Square, another fountain depicting San Francisco scenes outside the Hyatt Hotel on Union Square, and a tied-wire sculpture that graces the facade of the Oakland Museum. Along the way, she also co-founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop and the San Francisco School of the Arts.

But like so many other Japanese Americans, she could never completely forget the injustice she endured during the second world war. "I decided I would never be a victim again."

Now Asawa has paid tribute to the survivors of that sad period in U.S. history by creating the Japanese American Internment Memorial, unveiled March 5 in the plaza in front of San Jose's Federal

Building. The monument, a double-sided bronze bas-relief sculpture, is 5 feet high and 14 feet long.

In a series of graphic scenes, the memorial presents key moments in the Japanese-American experience in this country, starting with the first wave of immigration in the late 19th century.

Asawa portrays Japanese Americans at work as farmers and celebrating family life, but she devotes a large share of the memorial to the roundup and internment, as well as life in the camps.

The monument also depicts the exploits of the so-called "Nisei" soldiers, Japanese Americans who fought in special units of the U.S. Army during World War II and received many decorations for bravery.

Though there are many figures in the piece, only four were modeled after actual people, Asawa says. One was Fred Korematsu, of San Leandro.

Korematsu was one of a very few Japanese Americans who actively resisted

the 1942 executive order that called for the evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry from the coastal areas of the United States.

Arrested for failing to report for internment, Korematsu appealed his subsequent conviction all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which rejected his appeal in 1944. It was not until 1983 that Korematsu received vindication. In that year, his case was reopened and his conviction overturned by the U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

On the memorial, Korematsu is shown pleading his case before the Supreme Court along with two other Japanese Americans who also fought evacuation.

The memorial project was funded by the City of San Jose and through donations from the Japanese-American community. The city's Commission on the Internment of Local Japanese Americans selected Asawa in 1989, from among a number of Japanese-American artists. Because the planned monument was to

be on federal property, however, it took three years before approval came from the General Services Administration.

Starting work in the fall of 1992, Asawa sculpted the memorial at the Mussi Foundry in Berkeley. Assisting her was her good friend, artist Nancy Thompson, who made drawings based on Asawa's conceptions. Asawa then moulded the scenes in bread dough, the same as she did in creating her fountain sculpture at the Hyatt Hotel. The mouldings were later cast in bronze.

Also helping on the project were another friend and neighbor, Mae Lee; Dennis Fujimoto, an East Bay sculptor; Asawa's daughter Addie, and her son Paul Lanier, who is a potter.

In creating the memorial, Asawa says she wanted to tell the Japanese-American story "as simply and as directly as possible." But she and her colleagues spent many hours on research, taking pains to ensure factual accuracy.

"It seemed like a big responsibility, since I saw the work as not so much an art piece as a historical piece," Asawa said.

Etched in bronze on the monument are copies of documents relating to the roundup and imprisonment, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order and a map showing the location of the various camps.

Also documented is an outline of the steps leading up to the formal apology to the Japanese-American community by the U.S. Government in 1988. By way of restitution, Congress appropriated \$20,000 to each individual, or their descendant, who was held in the camps.

On the monument's side panels, Asawa also etched the *mons*, the family crests of those who were interned, which her daughter Addie Lanier had meticulously gathered from among camp veterans. The Asawa *mons* is included.

The crests, like much else in the monument, represent for Asawa something personal and something shared.

"I decided I would tell a story about myself, but it's really about 110,000 other people as well." □

The Japanese American Internment Memorial is located in front of the Federal Building, 280 S. First St., in downtown San Jose.

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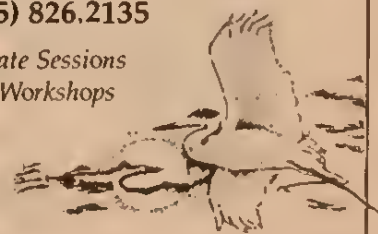
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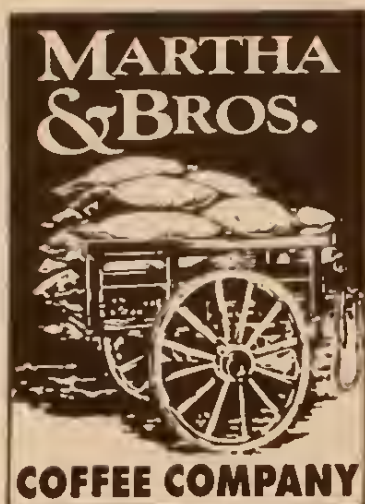
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Vance George Hears the Sweet Sound Of Success

By Jeff Kaliss

The folks who wait on him at Martha & Brothers don't always remember his name, but they know him as that nice beefy guy who was on TV getting a Grammy a year ago.

Seated on 24th Street in front of his favorite coffee shop, Vance George still likes to talk about the "altered state" which that event put him into. Although he's been conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus for 10 years, the Noe Valley resident sees himself as a "very shy" person who'd rather sip cappuccinos than appear before millions of viewers.

"I was sitting on the aisle at the Shriners' Auditorium in L.A., row five, and down front were the Michael Jacksons



Grand View Avenue resident Vance George cherishes the 1993 Grammy he won for leading the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in *Carmina Burana*.

and k.d. lings, and all the country-and-western stars and so forth," he recalls. "It came time for the Best Choral Recording Award, and this guy with a mini-cam came and knelt right beside me. And the woman in front of me said, 'Are you gonna get an award?' And I said, 'I don't know.' My heart was pounding."

Seconds later, George found himself walking to the podium to receive the gramophone-shaped trophy in recognition of his part in the performance of German composer Carl Orff's dramatic *Carmina Burana* for London Records, featuring the Chorus and the San Francisco Symphony under the baton of Herbert Blomstedt, as well as the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

"I really don't remember much except getting out of my seat and going offstage. It was very hazy in between," George admits. "A couple of days later, I saw a video playback, and I thought it sort of looked like one of the sequences in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, like my face was going to fall off.

"But I said okay things. I thanked the orchestra, the chorus (including all of my volunteer singers), and the staff. But I forgot the board of directors, who really go out and raise bucks, and the people of San Francisco."

George considers himself lucky to be living where he is and doing what he does. "Not many orchestras have their own chorus built in," he points out. "And my chorus performs more than any in this country."

This month the San Francisco Symphony Chorus' schedule includes presentations of Vivaldi's *Magnificat & Credo*, Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*, and Villa-Lobos' *Choro No. 10*. In addition, the group's recordings of Mahler's Second Symphony and Brahms' *Requiem* are currently awaiting release.

In his rare spare moments, George gets to appreciate his surroundings up on Grand View Avenue. "I grow flowers. I've taken the back hillside and made that into a garden."



Conductor Vance George and members of his Symphony Chorus form an extended family that's 200 strong. PHOTOS BY BEVERLY THARP

It reminds him a bit of his childhood job, planting mint in the fields of northern Indiana. That's how he earned the purchase price of his first metronome and a copy of Bach's *Two-Part Inventions*.

After college, the developing musician went on to doctoral studies at Indiana University, where he drafted a dissertation on 12-tone music, but never completed the degree. He became a protégé of choral director Margaret Hillis (who, along with Robert Shaw, monopolized the choral Grammys for years) and was invited as a guest conductor when she became interim director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in 1982. A year later, the job was his.

He was quickly impressed by the devotion of the 200 choristers, of whom 85 percent are volunteers.

"It's a tremendous investment of time and money," he points out. "They have jobs, but they come to rehearsals and performances. For some married folks, it's their nights away from the family. There's ownership in each of my singers. They're very proud to be part of the organization."

"For example, I have a nurse, Sandy Sellin, an alto, who has absolutely every shred of paper that anyone has ever written on the Symphony Chorus. There's a painter, Tom Colletta, who's sung back East and lives up on 15th Street now, and since this is his second season, he has a kind of commitment, an interest in his own personal development.

"We have a florist, David Medus, who comes to rehearsal, goes home at 10 at night, and is down at the Flower Market at three in the morning. And another guy, Henry Dreger, who specifically got a job as a telephone salesman so he could come to all rehearsals, go home, take a nap, do his sales, and take another nap."

In spite of the rigors, there will be many singers hoping for a chance to join the Chorus when auditions begin again next month.

"I look for beauty of voice, for musicianship—those are the two most important factors," says George. "And I hope they have choral experience and that they can read [music]. We have to move so quickly. We're doing 10 major works this year."

And there's a growing reputation to maintain—the kind of quality and insight that helped win the Grammy. "I think my singers and I have a particular theatrical side," George observes. "We're not afraid to take risks and do things that are expressive."

He refers to the "When we are in the tavern" part of *Carmina*, which Orff composed in 1937 based on worldly songs written some 700 years earlier by wandering German scholars. "There's a high note and a low note, and I thought, if you were a bit tipsy, you might put a slide in there. And, of course, they can all do that. Once you trigger something in them that they can connect with, they write it into their score."

"There are all kinds of colors that one might not find in another group, either because the conductor doesn't look at it or because the group just wouldn't do it anyway."

The Chorus' dynamic flexibility helped it land work on the film soundtracks of *Amadeus*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, and *Godfather III*, and was showcased in George's arrangement of *The Star Spangled Banner*, which opened the newly renovated Davies Hall.

Aside from the Grammy, the abiding award for both the conductor and his singers comes in the form of a supportive surrogate family. "We often have celebrations at our breaks, because of Judy Morrison, who sings in the Chorus and is a piano teacher and does catering, so she brings stuff in."

Last year's stunning performance of Prokofiev's score to *Alexander Nevsky*, which accompanied a screening of Eisenstein's classic Russian film at Davies Hall, was followed by a Stoli-and-piroshki party hackstage.

"It's the secret of life, because you find you have lots of people to lean on," says George. "I'm not married, so I enjoy that sort of family that is there vicariously. A lot of people in the group have had family members die of cancer, AIDS, and so forth. My lover died 2½ years ago, and it was tough, because it was during a run of seven Mozart *Requiem*s."

"I sat there listening to my chorus, and I thought, they need a way to express themselves. They had feelings towards me. I said, 'What if we do a memorial service at Grace Cathedral?' So we did eight *Requiem*s instead, and the eighth one was for Tom. Then we had a big party afterwards with lots of food and drink, like we always do."

Although George guest-conducts around the world and has been interviewed for a position with the prestigious Chicago Symphony Chorus, he has no real desire to abandon the city of his greatest success and satisfaction.

"Each performance has a kind of character that grows," he has discovered, "and that's the reason why people should hear live music. And with this group, what's so astounding is that each performance is better than the last one." □



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The rain, the leaves, and the treefrog are all essential characters in Madeleine Dunphy's *Here Is the Tropical Rain Forest*, illustrated by Michael Rothman. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Writer Finds Niche in Arctic And Rain Forest Storybooks

By Steve Sheret

Noe Valley is the Berkeley of San Francisco, according to children's book author Madeleine Dunphy, who lives atop a hill on Vicksburg Street.

She talks about the psychological supports offered here—everything from not having to jump into the car to get errands done, to finding a pocket of serenity in one of the world's most sophisticated cities—as she gestures out her third-floor window toward Potrero Hill and the Bay.

"It's easier to be creative here," she says. "I'm working at being a writer just walking around or doing the dishes. I don't think creativity is measured by being on or off the clock." This view of the writer's life has brought her a deep appreciation of Noe Valley's charms—from the quality of light and views, to the friendliness of her neighbors.

"I grew up in Manhattan, in a building

of 3,000 people. This is practically the country for me," she says.

Dunphy's first book, *Here Is the Arctic Winter*, published by Hyperion in April of 1993, was named an Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children for 1994 by the National Science Teachers Association. Her new book, *Here Is the Tropical Rain Forest*, will be in neighborhood bookstores later this month.

Written in a simple, lyrical style and illustrated with dramatic drawings by artists Alan James Robinson (*Arctic Winter*) and Michael Rothman (*Rain Forest*), the oversize picture books are Dunphy's way of introducing 3- to 8-year-olds to endangered ecosystems. Starting with a single element, she shows how nature's intricate mosaics are formed and supported.

Drops of rain open the *Rain Forest* book, for example, and as the reader turns the pages, the entire web of forest comes alive. The falling rain brings us to the tree frog and the bromeliad, and then

to the great trees and the animals that depend on the rain forest. At the end, the rain comes full circle to fill the river that flows through the forest and into the sea.

"I'm trying to show kids that these fragile, beautiful places are all tied together, that if one piece is taken away, the whole thing might fall apart," says Dunphy.

In the *Arctic* book, the sky is the unifying element. Future books, says Dunphy, will explore other ecosystems, including the African savannah, deserts of the American Southwest, wetlands, and coral reefs.

Dunphy found inspiration for this series of books, which she began in 1990, from her work as an educational program developer for Folk Art International, a San Francisco-based arts and culture organization. She currently divides her time between writing and working with kids in schools throughout the Bay Area, using educational kits filled with games and activities that teach about the natural world.

One of Dunphy's classroom activities is the yarn circle, where students assume the identity of an animal or element of a

particular environment, then stand in a circle and form a connection through a stretched string of yarn to another animal or element of the environment. After 20 minutes or so, when everyone has their proper connections and the circle looks like a giant cat's cradle, a "human" element is introduced, with predictable consequences.

In the case of the rain forest, the human element is often an axe-wielding man, sent in to chop down the tree. The child who is pretending to be the tree drops her string of yarn, and as soon as the little boy trying his hardest to act like a bromeliad feels the slack, he lets go too, and then the tree frog loses his grip, etc. Soon you have a bunch of first-graders staring at a tumble of red yarn trying to figure out what went wrong.

"That is the best and worst part of teaching kids about the environment," Dunphy says. "Every single one of them is so enthusiastic and in love with the cute animals, but when you tell them the

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Children's book author Madeleine Dunphy explores fragile ecosystems as far away as Brazil and as near as Douglass Park. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Continued from Previous Page

animals are endangered and might not survive, they get very sad.

"I want to let them know what's happening without letting them slip into helplessness and apathy. I try to instill a sense of hope by telling them that nature isn't just something out there, that they too are part of the ecosystem."

Dunphy also has her students do collective collages of nature scenes and other artwork on the environment. Older students are even asked to write letters to elected officials, which they are encouraged to decorate with crayon drawings. She thinks of it as bringing up a new generation of environmentally-conscious citizens. "Education is activism" is one of her mottos.

Dunphy feels that the strict good guy/bad guy scenario promoted by most activist groups doesn't address the complexities she sees in environmental issues. Education may lack the confrontational edge of direct activism, she says, but it stands a better chance of changing people's ideas about the world.

Dunphy studied anthropology and museum studies in Santa Cruz, moved to San Francisco in 1986, was an activist with the Rainforest Action Network for a few years, and turned to teaching and writing in 1989.

But her fascination with the tropical rain forest originally stemmed from a Caribbean vacation her family took when she was 8. While staying on the island of Dominica, they hiked to a pristine, fern-

fringed circle of water called the Emerald Pool and swam behind a waterfall.

Later, back at the hotel, a waiter sought to impress her family by balancing a lunch tray on the back of a giant Hercules beetle, and they all watched as the bug carried it around the room, slowly and methodically, like a proper servant.

"It was amazing to see that this giant beetle had the strength to do that," she says.

Dunphy still travels a lot, making trips to every ecosystem she writes about. The field research for her rain forest book took her to the Amazon of Brazil, Peru, and Colombia.

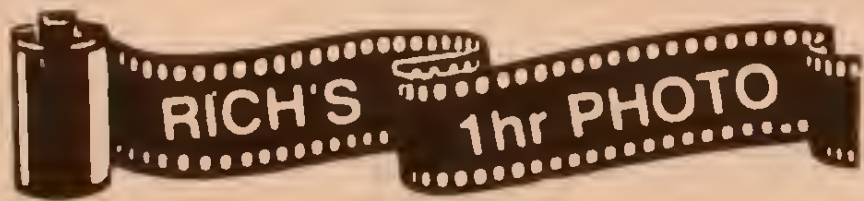
However, she may stay closer to home for the last volume in her series: an exploration of the urban ecosystem. Dun-

phy notes that although the city's wildlife isn't much compared to what she's seen elsewhere, its pigeons "are really under-appreciated. They have good eyes and a wonderful homing instinct."

One Noe Valley pigeon that seems particularly precocious, she says, is a regular at the Diamond Corner Cafe. Every afternoon it walks in and pecks for crumbs, no matter how much the employees try to shoo it away.

Since like Dunphy the bird appears to have found a niche in our neighborhood's ecosystem, it too may be destined for literary fame. □

Cover to Cover, at 3910 24th St., will host a book-signing party for Dunphy's Here Is the Tropical Rain Forest on Saturday, April 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.



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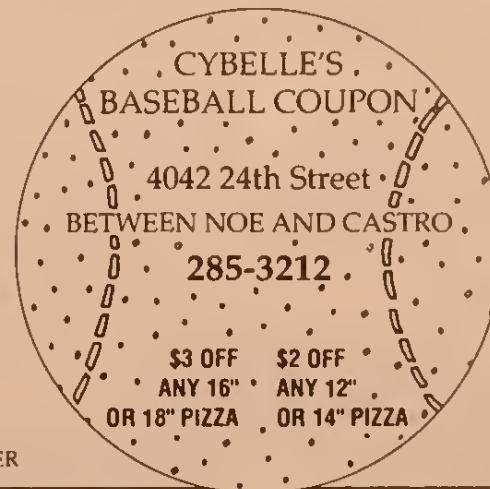
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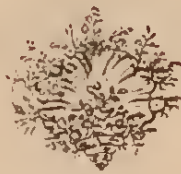


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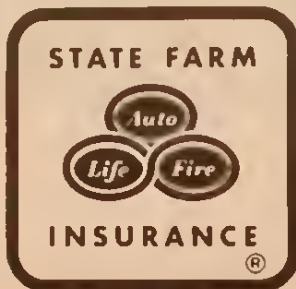
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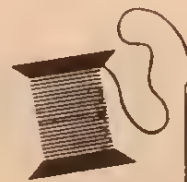
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Accent on Flowers owner Glen Potter (second from right) says he and his colleagues in the Mission-Noe Kiwanis Club welcome newcomers to the service organization's Tuesday lunches at Speckmann's Restaurant. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Earthquake Drill

On Saturday, April 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., local residents are invited to observe members of Noe Valley's own Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) practicing their skills during an earthquake drill in the schoolyard at James Lick Middle School.

The drill, planned in conjunction with California's Earthquake Preparedness Month, will implement various aspects of communications and search-and-rescue skills, disaster medicine, and triage operations, which are vital during emergency situations.

The NERT program began in 1990 in response to concerns expressed by residents of the Marina District, which was severely damaged in the Loma Prieta Quake of 1989. It is taught by the San Francisco Fire Department and is designed to enable ordinary citizens to help their families and neighbors in the event that the city's professional emergency services are overwhelmed during the first 72 hours following a catastrophe. Graduates of NERT's six classes later form neighborhood networks to make the best use of the skills they have learned.

Nearly 100 Noe Valley residents have already attended classes here in Noe Valley, and over 2,000 have been trained throughout the city. But many more graduates are needed to make the program effective. (For example, only a small percentage of trained NERT members might be at home if a disaster were to strike on a weekday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.)

Another series of classes is scheduled to begin in Noe Valley on June 1. Interested residents should call NERT team member Patti Oliver at 695-0700.

In the meantime, those who attend the refresher drill at James Lick (Clipper and Castro streets) will be able to look over disaster-preparedness kits and receive a firsthand briefing from NERT members.

SHORT TAKES

Kiwanis Club Expands

Join us in welcoming the newly-named Mission-Noe Kiwanis Club, first chartered as the Kiwanis Club of the Mission in 1933. The name change reflects the club's growing constituency in Noe Valley, according to its treasurer, Glen Potter.

Like other Kiwanis Clubs across the country, the 25-member Mission-Noe Kiwanis is dedicated to supporting youth-oriented programs.

The club currently supports eight scout troops and soccer teams from the inner Mission. It has also been involved in drug-prevention programs.

Members meet every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m. for lunch at Speckmann's Restaurant, located at the corner of Church and Duncan streets. There is usually a guest speaker at each luncheon—last month the club invited San Francisco Chief Probation Officer Fred Jordan.

Potter is actively seeking new members. Visit him at his store, Accent on Flowers, at 4080 24th St., or give him a call at 824-3233. You are also cordially invited to attend a club lunch meeting at Speckmann's on any Tuesday.

Peace of Mind

Feeling a little stressed out by the taxes you haven't done yet? You may want to check out the free meditation classes being offered on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St. Upcoming classes are scheduled for April 18 and 25 (there's a short spring break the first half of April) and every Monday in May.

Karen Mandel, of the San Francisco Sri Chinmoy Center, will cover the how-

to's of quieting the inner mind, and will also give advice on starting and maintaining a personal meditation routine.

Lisa Stortstrom, also of Sri Chinmoy, says 10 to 15 people usually attend each class, and "Noe Valley is one of our favorite neighborhoods because the people are very friendly and interested in what we are doing."

To find out more or to confirm a particular class, call 664-1327.

Those Fabulous '50s

"Noe Valley in the 1950s" is the theme for this year's Noe Valley History Month, which is scheduled for May. As in the past, the event is a collaboration of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Noe Valley Library. Throughout the month, artifacts, news headlines, photographs, and other memorabilia from this era will be on display at the library, 451 Jersey St.

According to Paul Kantus, president of East & West, many of the items displayed will come from the Noe Valley Archives, which are maintained at the library. However, he encourages residents to loan or, better yet, donate '50s memorabilia to the archives for the show.

Kantus recalls one resident who parked his sparkling Model-A Ford in front of the library a few years ago when the theme was "The '30s." Call him at 647-3753 if you have something you'd like to share.

The exhibit can be viewed May 1 to 31 during regular library hours, but an open house will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, featuring free refreshments and entertainment. (Please note that there will be no usual library services that day.)

Kantus says the party will be a great opportunity to see friends and meet neighbors, reminisce, or perhaps find out what the neighborhood was like before you were born.

For further information, call the library at 695-5095, or put on those saddle shoes and bop on over.

Work Up a Sweat for AIDS

It's time for the sixth annual "Workout for Hope Against AIDS," which will take place Saturday, April 9, at the University of San Francisco's Koret Health and Recreation Center, located on the corner of Turk and Parker streets.

Brian Daniel, the owner of 25th Street Workout, asks you to join him and many other leading Bay Area fitness experts in this nationwide, three-hour aerobic workout to raise funds for AIDS research. Last year's San Francisco event raised more than \$78,000, tops in the nation. This year's goal is \$85,000.

Participants collect a minimum of \$50 in donations from family, friends, and co-workers (for example, five sponsors at \$10 each). In return they'll receive a Workout for Hope tee shirt or sweatshirt, refreshments, a chance at prizes, and a great workout. All funds raised will go to benefit AIDS research programs at the City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Koret Center, and the workout starts at 10 a.m. Bring your sponsor form (available at 25th Street Workout) and a check for \$50 or more, made out to City of Hope. Parking is limited, so consider carpooling or public transportation. And come dressed to work out (shoes with rubber soles, please).

If you'd prefer to participate only by contributing, just drop a check for any amount by the 25th Street Workout, at 25th and Castro streets.

As if operating a business and working out to benefit AIDS research weren't enough to keep Daniel busy, 25th Street Workout is also conducting exercise classes on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays for eighth-grade students from James Lick Middle School. The program was initiated in January, when yoga instructor Duncan Wong discussed the idea with James Lick faculty members and then approached Daniel about letting the kids use his workout space.

The sessions, run by Wong, include tai chi, karate, tae kwon do, and hatha yoga, and offer students an opportunity to improve themselves in a structured and creative environment. Each class can accommodate 26 students, and applicants are asked to submit essays explaining their interest in the class and what they expect to gain from it.

There are still openings for the next session, scheduled to begin in mid-April and run through June. For further details, call Wong or Daniel at 647-1224.

Renovation Tips

Noe Valley resident and architect Charles Pick will offer a free workshop on Monday, April 4, titled "How to Remodel Your Noe Valley Home." The two-hour brainstorming session, which starts

Continued on Next Page



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SHORTTAKES

Continued from Previous Page

at 7:30 p.m., will take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Pick, a partner at the architectural firm AQA, will discuss budgeting from A to Z, price negotiations, and how particular projects can increase resale value as well as enjoyment of your home. He will also prepare homeowners to wend their way through the building permit process.

Pick's knowledge and firsthand experience in Noe Valley remodels should make for an interesting evening. Give him a call at 956-7417 if you plan to attend.

A Party in the Wind

Congratulations to Wind in the Willows Nursery School, which has reached the magic age of 21. To celebrate this milestone, the school, located at Church and Army streets, is throwing a gala birthday party on Saturday, April 23.

Pat O'Connor, in her 10th year as director, invites all alumni (anyone who graduated from the school between 1973 and 1993) and their families to drop by from noon to 3 p.m. She adds that the event will coincide with a showing of current students' artwork, and light refreshments will be served.

O'Connor looks forward to seeing old friends, and if any graduates want to say hi beforehand, give her a call at 285-3356.

Take a Look at Lick

April will be another busy month for James Lick School. So mark your calendars now if you want to show support for your local middle school, located at 1220 Noe St.

On April 16, James Lick band students will be holding a car wash on the blacktop from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to raise money for band uniforms. They will be asking for a \$3 donation.

On April 23, from 10 a.m. to noon, students, parents, and teachers will give some much-needed T.L.C. to the trees surrounding the school at Clipper and 25th streets. If you'd like to help with the watering and pruning, bring a shovel and some gardening gloves.

And finally, the James Lick Flea Market returns on Saturday, April 30. Come to sell or to buy, but don't miss this fun event, which will raise money to provide a memorable graduation for the school's eighth-graders.

The market will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to reserve a stall (\$25), contact B.J. Martin at James Lick weekday mornings, 8 to 10 a.m., or all day Wednesdays, at 695-5675.

Rainbows Widen Spectrum

The Singing Rainbow Youth Ensemble is preparing for a series of spring performances, beginning April 14 and running through June 16. And Director Candy Forest is scouting for five or six new singers, ages 10 to 16, to replace members who have moved or left for college.



Anyone who graduated with goofiness from Wind in the Willows Nursery School—including the distinguished members of the Class of 1989 shown here—has been encouraged to attend the school's 21st birthday party on April 23. PHOTO BY JENNY COOK

Kids interested in singing songs about world peace, animal rights, and the environment are encouraged to try out.

The Singing Rainbows already have two public appearances on their spring schedule, a Holocaust remembrance event on April 24 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., and a reception for Noe Valley History Month May 15 at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

The ensemble's cassette tapes—*All in This Together* and *Head First and Belly Down*—focus on themes of ethnic diversity and protection of life, and are available at Video Wave, 1431 Castro St.

Members of the Singing Rainbow Youth Ensemble participate at a nominal cost. If you have a child interested in joining, or if you just want to attend a performance, give Forest a call at 550-7752.

Walk Against Cancer

The third annual Women and Cancer Walk will be held Sunday, May 22, at 12:30 p.m. in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow.

Funds raised during the event will benefit 11 organizations serving women with cancer: Bay Area Black Women's Health Project, Older Women's League, Breast Cancer Action, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, Vietnamese Community Health Promotion Project, National Black Leadership Initiative Against Cancer, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, National Latina Health Organization, Native American Health Centers, Charlotte Maxwell

Complementary Clinic, and the Women's Cancer Resource Center.

The walk coordinating committee needs volunteers to help organize and publicize the event. Pamela Yetunde, one of three coordinators, says that volunteer activities will include distributing leaflets, making telephone calls, and organizing walk teams.

And, of course, they're also trying to drum up more walkers. Yetunde says the group expects more than 1,000 participants this year, and hopes to raise \$100,000.

For details on volunteering or walking, call 487-6224 or write to Women and Cancer Walk, 3543 18th St., Box 1, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Three Cheers for Nina

In 1969, some neighborhood women opened the Noe Valley Nursery School, a parent-run co-op that pursues a philosophy of fostering and supporting children's individuality. Twenty-five years later, the school is still going strong, and one of its founders, Director Nina Youkelson, is being honored at two upcoming events.

On Friday, May 6, the school is throwing an anniversary party from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, home of the nursery school, located at 1021 Sanchez St.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The school will use the major portion of the proceeds to establish a retirement fund for Youkelson. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be made

at the party or mailed to Nancy Healy, 4247 25th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Checks should be made out to the N.V.N.S. Nina Fund.

For those who can't make it to the evening party, there will be a family potluck on Saturday, May 7, from noon to 6 p.m., at Douglass Park, on Douglass near 26th. Donations to the "Nina Fund" will be accepted at the potluck also.

The school is trying to contact as many alumni families as possible about the events and the retirement fund, so if you are in touch with any of them, please let the co-op know by calling 206-0966.

Help Make Carnival Magic

The Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA) invites Noe Valley residents to assist in staging one of the city's most colorful multi-ethnic celebrations, Carnival 1994, set for May 27-29.

Events planned include the Grand Parade along 24th and Mission streets, a crafts festival on Harrison Street, a celebration of soccer's World Cup XV, and the traditional salsa, samba, and Caribbean balls.

Helping in the box office, coordinating performers, working backstage, and assisting with outdoor activities are just a few of the possibilities for volunteers. To sign up, call 905-6322.

This month's Short Takes were written and compiled by Jim Christie and Jane Underwood.

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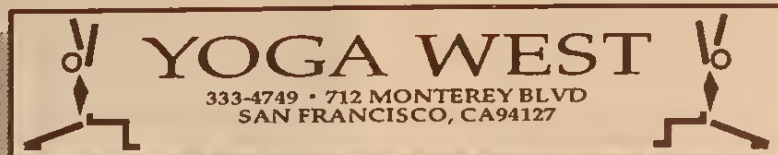
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Roving TV Reporter Gary Kauf Stays Anchored In Noe Valley

By Michael Eisman

Back in 1988, when Mayor Art Agnos was going to close the Noe Valley Branch of the Public Library, Gary Kauf, a native San Franciscan, was a reporter for Channel 2's *10 O'Clock News*. A Noe Valley resident since 1982, Kauf knew there would be a meeting between Agnos and those in the neighborhood concerned about the closure.

"A bunch of people getting together to save their library is not considered a newsworthy item by a television newscast or newspaper," Kauf noted. "[But] I went to my editors and said, 'There's a story here. I live in this area, and I think this is going to be an excellent example of a community that really cares and will turn out to change the mayor's mind.'"

"They went along with me. And the street had to be closed because so many people turned out. It was a very passionate meeting. I did a live story afterward with this proviso: 'I live here. If it's biased, here's why.'"

Other television stations and newspapers followed Channel 2's lead and dispatched crews to cover the event. "Sure enough, the mayor backed off," said Kauf. "Maybe the station and I helped, and that's as good as it gets for me. This is my city. I care about San Francisco."

Nowadays, Kauf works as a field anchor—an on-the-scene news reporter—for *Mornings on Two*, Channel 2's answer to *Good Morning America*. (It airs during the same time slot, 7 to 9 a.m.) But his journalism career began 20 years ago, publishing a neighborhood newspaper.

A year after graduating from San Francisco State University with a journalism degree in 1973, he took over the reins of the *Sunset Journal*. "It was a wonderful newspaper," he said, "12 pages, done in hot type. This was before desktop publishing. We distributed 25,000 copies in the Sunset District."

It was at the *Journal* that Kauf met his wife-to-be, Jayne Garrison, who did reporting and advertising sales for the paper. After two years, says Kauf, "The newspaper failed, but the marriage has survived."

Kauf remembers an exclusive interview with then mayor-elect George Moscone. "None of the newspapers supported Moscone except the *Sunset Journal*. When he was elected and took office, he gave us his first interview, as a way of thanking us for our endorsement. This was a big deal for us." But since the *Journal* was only published once a week, by the time their exclusive story hit the streets, Mos-



Mornings on Two reporter Gary Kauf and journalist wife Jayne Garrison are often up at the crack of dawn with sons Chase, 5, and Alec, 7, not to mention their two pet rats (whose names were not available at press time). PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

cane "had talked to the *Chronicle*, *Examiner*, and every other newspaper in California!"

After the *Sunset Journal* was laid to rest, Garrison became a tape editor at KCBS Radio, and Kauf volunteered as a production assistant at KQED Television.

While at KQED, he gained experience in every aspect of broadcasting, from running the TelePrompter to editing tape. "Anything that was open," Kauf said, "I would try to come up with the skills." In 1979, his perseverance led to a paid position, as a writer for KQED's weeknight news show, *Newsroom*.

"The trick to television writing is [determining] what you can leave out, what's not essential to the story," notes Kauf. He later became assignment editor for the show, but "suddenly KQED decided they couldn't afford the *Newsroom* and canceled it in September 1980." He found a job at KTVU Channel 2, however, first as an election-night producer and then as a writer.

In the fall of 1983, Kauf's career got a boost, owing in part to his wife's decision to pursue a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University in New York. "I decided that if Jayne was going to have this great adventure, I wanted to have one, too. So I quit Channel 2, much to my mother's chagrin."

Amazingly, Kauf landed a writing job on *NBC Nightly News* just days after arriving in Manhattan. He doesn't call it luck, but rather "being in the right place with the right skills." Less than two months after Kauf was hired, the senior writer on the show was fired, and Kauf was promoted.

"Tom Brokaw was great," he recalls. "There's an East Coast mind-set to the nightly news programs. Tom saw me as someone who knew the concerns and sensibilities of the West Coast and would bring those stories to his attention."

In 1984, an election year, Kauf traveled with the rest of the NBC crew around the country, covering primaries and the campaign. The Democratic Convention was held in San Francisco that year, and while Kauf was in town, his old news director at KTVU offered him a job as executive producer. By that time Garrison had finished her degree and was working as a freelance journalist, so Kauf accepted the offer, and the family headed back to Noe Valley.

While waiting to assume his new position, Kauf was given the opportunity to try on-air reporting for the *10 O'Clock News*. "I didn't have anything to lose," he said. "If I didn't like doing it or they didn't like me on the air, I could just produce. It was a no-risk situation."

He did like it, however, so much so that he began reporting three, then four days a week, winning an Emmy for a piece he did on a special unit of the Oakland Police for "Segment Two." Although he also did some producing for a while, he ultimately gave it up to do reporting full-time.

Kauf remained a familiar presence on the *10 O'Clock News* until mid-1991, when KTVU reassigned him to *Mornings on Two*, which had recently debuted to less-than-rave notices. "The ratings were horrible, and the critics blasted away at it," said Kauf. "The show was brand new and it was rocky. It takes time to learn what the audience wants to know at 7 a.m. and how to present it to them."

But eventually the show "started to gel," said Kauf. "We got a new producer who pulled the pieces together, and Ross McGowan joined the show as host. Now the newscast is really excellent. I'm proud of it."

Kauf thinks one of the secrets to *Mornings on Two*'s success is its emphasis on hard news, as opposed to fluff. "It's a solid, serious newscast. People tune in to

a morning news show to find out if anything important happened after they went to bed last night."

Kauf, who with his mustache and easy grin bears a mild resemblance to Kurt Vonnegut, appears on a daily basis, giving live reports on a wide range of stories, from traffic congestion on the Bay Bridge, to a forest fire in Yosemite, to a landslide in the Southland. He also occasionally does crime news, and recently covered the Tonya Harding story from Portland.

He enjoys the challenge, and has even gotten used to pounding the pavement in the wee hours of the morning. "Getting up at five still isn't fun, but I have two young sons, Alec [age 7], and Chase [age 5]. And getting up at five buys me more time with them every day of the week."

One feature of *Mornings on Two* that Kauf is particularly pleased with is called "Our Town," which airs on Fridays. Every week, Kauf roams the greater Bay Area, recording a "slice of life" of the most intriguing locales.

"Chronicle Books was so interested in the idea that they're going to publish a book format of 'Our Town' next March. It'll be a coffee-table book of 50 places we've been to."

Although Noe Valley hasn't yet been featured on "Our Town," Kauf confesses that his reporting might be a bit biased if it were, given his affection for the area. From his deck, ensconced on a hillside overlooking the neighborhood, he observes that "Noe Valley is fortunate, first and foremost in weather, the makeup of the neighborhood, the quality of the architecture, and the attention that people pay to how clean the area is."

"You also see it in the *Voice*—it's well put together, well thought out, consistent, and thick. For a neighborhood newspaper, the *Noe Valley Voice* is very unusual." □

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BYLINES

Woodsman, Spare That Branch Library

By Dorothy Coakley

I believe in libraries, free libraries, places where neighborhood kids can go after school to find a picture of King Feisal for their eighth-grade history report. I believe that babies need books, books to love, books to occasionally chew, books that will become as special to them as *Make Way for Ducklings* became to my children.

I have nothing against the building of the New Main Library downtown, but then I have nothing against the restoration of the pyramids in the Nile Valley. It's just that the New Main means little to me, and is likely to be antiquated even before it opens its doors.

I even believe in databases, just like the ones that City Librarian Ken Dowlin proposes to access for the benefit of the stockbrokers, attorneys, and entrepreneurs of San Francisco.

It's just that I don't believe they should be the top priority of the free public library system in an era of fiscal austerity, and I doubt that the children, adults, and senior citizens who are going to pay for them do either.

"There is no such thing as a free library," I heard Ken Dowlin say not long ago at a staff meeting. "Libraries are 'pay-as-you-go.'"

But you see, I believe in free public libraries. It's a philosophical difference, and I'm not going to budge an inch.

I knew I wanted to become a librarian the minute I walked into the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street one afternoon in the fall of 1986. It was a

new copy of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* that lured me toward the Children's Room.

To look at it, I had to cross around several children reading on the floor, a teddy bear sitting in the middle of a small table, two goldfish swimming in a bowl, stacks of paperbacks, and several parents chatting by the door to a sunlit courtyard.

The library was not just a place for dusty books. It was a place where ideas and people met! It was also the last of the truly democratic institutions in the city—a place where admission was never charged and the child of a homeless person had as much claim to the attention of the librarian as the scion of a wealthy socialite.

The next spring I finished library school at U.C. Berkeley and became a public librarian.

Now, eight years later, I've worked at about half of the branch libraries in San Francisco, and have seen how important the community library is to the neighborhood it serves.

The neighborhood library is more than a convenient place to pick up books or meet your children after a trip to the dentist. A branch like Noe Valley provides the connecting thread for an informal news network. Neighbors congregate at the library and exchange information relevant to their daily lives.

In recent weeks, that network has been buzzing with the rumor that the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, along with at least six other branches, has been marked for closure. The reason, says the library top brass, is that the branch libraries are too expensive to run efficiently. But are they?

From my observations, a neighborhood library can be operated at extremely low cost, and without the aid of high-salaried administrators. The New Main Library, on the other hand, will require several layers of administration.

The community library—which in addition to books can offer cassettes, records, and even videos for free—is within walking distance of most people's homes. That saves gas, parking fees, and bus fares.

The New Main will be located in a non-residential area and in what most consider to be a dangerous part of town, making it much less inviting and therefore less accessible to the public.

The branch library functions as a small community center, offering children's and adult reading groups, film programs, and meeting rooms for neighborhood organizations. It also is the place to obtain formal and informal information from librarians knowledgeable in the lore of the neighborhood.

Nowadays, books can be paged from any library to another branch. The librarians assist the patrons with this process, but also help them find the answer to questions through non-traditional modes, like bringing an article from home.

It's all much more cost-efficient than doing business through the Main Library—unless, of course, you believe that a library should be "pay-as-you-go." If, like me, you believe in free libraries, here's what we need to do:

- Work to keep the branch libraries open—and for longer hours.
- Vote for library commissioners in the same way we vote for members of the school board. Commissioners should have to answer to the voters.
- Demand that three-fourths of the city's library budget be allocated to the branches. Downtown businesses can foot the bill for the expensive information services proposed for the New Main Library.
- Use the local library often, and let the politicians know if the branch is not meeting our needs.
- Finally, throw out the bums who say we don't need a neighborhood library. We do. For free. □

Dorothy Coakley has been the children's librarian at the Bernal Heights Branch of the San Francisco Public Library off and on since 1988. She is the author of a forthcoming children's book, *Where's Merriwether?*

Let Bylines Be Bylines

If you have written an opinion piece, a fond remembrance, or a profile of a neighborhood character, maybe it's time you had it published in the *Voice*. We welcome submissions of first-person reflections, particularly those relating to Noe Valley people, pastimes, politics, or pets. Please mail your manuscript (which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,000 words) to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your phone number, so we can get back to you as soon as possible. Look forward to hearing from you. —Sally Smith, ed. □

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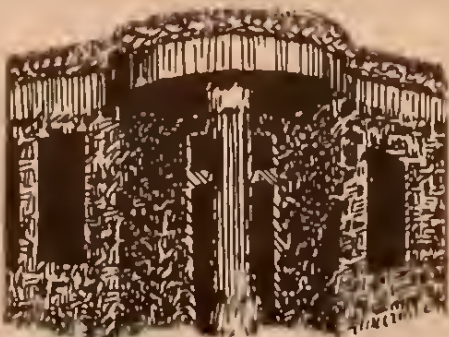
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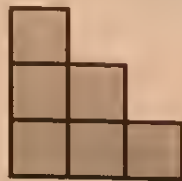
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THE NO VALIUM VOICE

3 Strikes and You're Dead!

By Ima Goat

A Noe Valley senior became the first California resident to be arrested under the state's controversial "Three Strikes You're Toast" law.

Melanie Wilkes Doily, a well-respected Shanti volunteer, grandmother of 24, and inventor of the stuffed-sock monkey, was apprehended immediately after making a left turn onto 24th Street out of Bell Market's parking lot. In the month prior, she had been convicted of two other felonies: taking too long to complete a simple transaction at the Wells Fargo ATM, and failure to recycle an aluminum can (city workers had discovered the evidence in Doily's double-bagged garbage).

The arresting officers were horrified to learn that the traffic violation was Doily's third offense, but were unable to find any loopholes under the new law, passed April 1. "We had no choice but to haul her in," said an exasperated Sgt. Lois Sasperilla. "And she didn't go quietly either. She pelted us with turnips from her shopping bag, while brandishing a bunch of scallions."

Doily will be executed at dawn tomorrow at Upper Noe Recreation Center, at the corner of Day and Sanchez Streets. (Tickets are available at all BASS and Ticketron outlets.)

In an exclusive interview with *Voice* investigative reporter Connie Chunk, Doily expressed remorse for her crimes. "I meant no harm," said the longtime Elizabeth Street resident, speaking from her cell in San Quentin.

"My budgie had choked on his cuttlebone, and I was rushing from the store with fresh lettuce to clear his windpipe."

When probed about the onions, a huffy Doily told Chunk, "I'm only here to talk about my Petey."

In response to the incident, California's own Petey, Governor Kilsom, faxed a statement from his yacht off the coast of Fiji, reading, "The people of California should sleep a little better tonight knowing there's one less hardened criminal on the street."

However, many Noe Valley residents—particularly those who already have two black marks on their rap sheets—are tossing and turning.

"I was caught loitering in front of Marx & Bros. with my latte last week, and they nailed me on the leash law yesterday. I swear, I'm afraid to go out of the house," said Sister Mary Boychik, of St. Paul's.

"Thank God I've only got one charge against me," said a relieved Richard Allen Davis, a Noe Valley native.

Hair Giant Waves Hello

By Ray Punzel

Headmasters, a cut-rate haircutting syndicate, announced April 1 it was moving into the only suitable 24th Street location—the storefront next to Supercuts, which, coincidentally, recently moved in next door to Hot Headz, a locally-owned salon. "So curl up and dye," said



Cheerful people await their treatment with Antizac, a designer depressant engineered to relieve feelings of excessive well-being. PHOTO BY BEVERLY WARP

There's Help for the Happy

By Edgar Allan Poe

More than 25 Noe Valley residents received doses of a new drug called Antizac last month, after U.S. Surging General Jostlin' Elders imposed mandatory treatment for citizens with excessively high self-esteem.

Elders' ruling coincided with a U.S. Drug Administration decision to ban Prozac, an anti-depressant that has been widely overprescribed in the past decade.

Current scientific research has shown that in the seven years since the drug's inception, a whopping 88 percent of the population has been diagnosed with "mild to severe depression" and were ingesting daily doses of pills in the Prozac family.

There's also evidence that only 8 percent of humans are born with an abundance of serotonin, the brain chemical that promotes delusions of self-worth.

(The remaining 4 percent have hot

cocoa where their serotonin should have been.)

"All this tells me that perhaps being sad and pessimistic is man's natural condition, and therefore it's more fair to treat the small percent who are too happy for their own good," said Elders at her press conference at Launderland on 24th Street.

"Besides, all those Prozac-poppers, plus the naturally cheerful and assertive people, were making things really hard for the rest of us," she added, speaking with a slight stutter.

She was joined on the podium by Antizac Campaign Spokesperson Shirley Temple Bleak, who expressed relief at finally getting rid of the sunny disposition that had dogged her for 60 years. "Since I started taking Antizac, I've published two books of poetry, and am working on a novel about death. Before, all I did was play canasta and gallivant around town."



Tribute Ends in Near Tragedy

A bizarre mixup was the cause of a giant flea bomb explosion at Noe Courts last month, which destroyed the newly constructed fence around the children's play area. A group that had gathered to honor the late Fred Methner—Noe Valley's most diligent anti-graffiti vigilante—by simultaneously setting off cans of spray paint, inadvertently detonated 43 cans of Flee Fleas Please, a pine-scented but deadly insect repellent. No casualties were reported except for the 70 billion fleas.

City Buys Land Just for Fun

By Ron McDonald

With funds left over from the Library Budget, the city's Redevelopment Agency has purchased a piece of prime real estate owned by the Second Thought Church next to Bull Market. At press time, the agency planned to lease the 3,600-square-foot lot to a theme park, YuppyDisney, but was still considering several other uses for the site:

- A panhandler preserve—a refuge for the city's most endangered species;
- "Free to Tee," a miniature golf course celebrating Great Moments in Women's History;
- A pigeon halfway house, offering wood-processing computer skills, and Pigeon English as a Second Language;
- Expansion of SFO or a new stadium for the Giants baseball team (either of these options must be approved by at least three Noe Valley residents);
- A small cemetery for dead batteries

Continued on Another Page



Most local residents were pleased to learn last month that the property next to Bull Market would be transformed into an amusement park, Six Flags Over Noe. PHOTO BY FEDERICO FELLINI.

Inside This Issue

- "Am I Glue?" Alice Walker's Most Thought-Provoking Story
- New Ways to Package and Sell Your Child
- Panhandlers Advised to Use Potholders to Avoid Burns
- Thrifty Junior Abducted from Walgreen's Parking Lot
- Angela Alioto Unveils Her Dominatrix Program
- Pets Without Partners—Noe Valley's Shocking Underground Stud Farm
- 50 Ways to Leave Your House
- Meet Mr. and Mrs. Bridges of Madison County
- Scientists Locate Liver-and-Onions Gene

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You can bet your life the coffee's great at Noe Valley's newest den of caffeine, Marx & Brothers, located in the spot formerly occupied by Lenin & Sisters, previously Commonly Ground Coffee Basics, and, before that, Everett's Cool Shades.

Owner Groucho and brothers Harpo, Chico, Zeppo, and Gummo say their store offers a huge hill of beans, noting that over 30 varieties of coffee can be steamed, poached, boiled, or stewed, according to their customers' most cuckoo desires.

"Watch the duck come down from the ceiling when you name the day's secret blend," says Groucho, "and win a cup of joe served by our lovely waitress Margaret Dumont."

Customers also receive complimentary animal crackers with each cappuccino purchase.

Caffe Mealworm
"Grubs for the '90s"
593 13th St.

Tired of the same old protein sources? Noe Valley's newest eatery, Caffe Mealworm, features nutritious low-fat lunches and dinners showcasing lower forms of edible life, from ants and grasshoppers to earthworms and maggots.

"We make our pesto with real pests," boasts owner Gnat King Cole, "and don't overlook our banana slug yogurt or shoo fly pie for dessert."

Cole opened his restaurant to meet new demand created after the Flying Ant Invasion of 1993, which centered around Bell Market and Double Rainbow Ice Cream.

"Many local residents tasted these delicacies for the first time and said to



Wake Up and Smell the Mayans

While excavating to remove old oil tanks from Dan's Gas Station on 24th Street, workers were surprised to discover the remains of a 2,000-year-old Mayan city less than a dozen feet beneath the surface. Archaeologists later determined from the artifacts, which included many petrified biscotti and cone-shaped filters, that this highly developed culture worshipped a coffee god, whom they called Starbucks. PHOTO BY BEVERLY TARP.

themselves, 'Mmm, yum,'" he said.

His business also received a boost during the heavy rains this spring, when he was able to harvest the silverfish cultivated in his basement laundry room.

Cole advises those who'd like to sample his fare to call first for reservations. "And hurry if you don't want to miss out on the Hot and Slimy Soup!"



Noe Valley by Night

Photo montage by Chas Kennard

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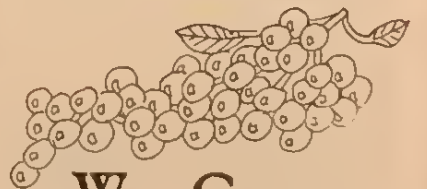
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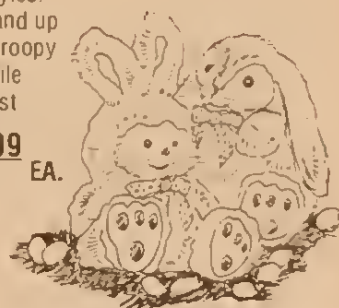
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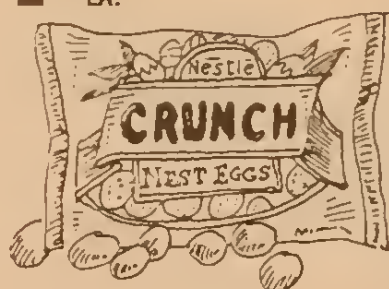


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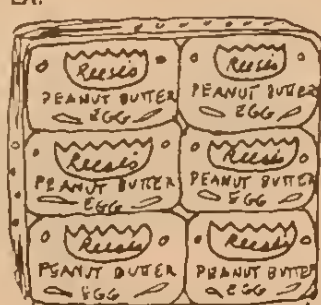


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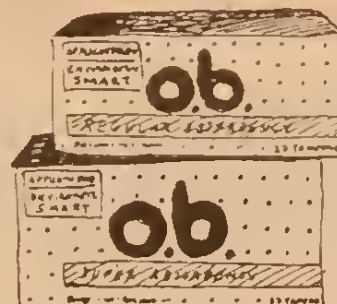


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Two Corner Groceries Hit By Robbers

By Officer Lois Perillo

There were three reported robberies within my stretch of Noe Valley during the month of February. Two of the robberies were of businesses, while one was a mugging.

On Feb. 9 at about noon, a 19-year-old man entered the corner grocery at Church and 26th streets and asked for iced tea. While the 66-year-old owner left the counter to direct the first man to the tea, a second man entered brandishing a pistol. The owner ran from the store, and the suspects stole \$40. According to an independent witness, the suspects exited the store and walked east on 26th Street.

In the second commercial robbery, a woman in her 20s and a 25-year-old man entered the grocery store at 21st and Castro streets on Feb. 10 at about 1 p.m. After the man purchased candy, the woman walked behind the counter, simulated a gun through her jacket, and stole money from the cash register, while her accomplice held the front door closed. Both suspects fled south on Castro Street, and the 47-year-old owner was not injured.

The male suspect was later identified as John Yates of the 4200 block of 22nd Street, who was found to be on felony probation and subsequently arrested March 1. The District Attorney is currently seeking to revoke Yates' probation and reimpose his original sentence of three years. Yates will remain in county jail pending his April 18 hearing.

The female suspect was also identified, but she will not be charged at this time.

In the third robbery, a 14-year-old teen was robbed of \$15 by a 15-year-old suspect on Feb. 17 at 11:30 p.m. at 22nd

POLICE BEAT

Street and Hoffman Avenue. I have no further information on this incident, since the report was filed with Taraval Station.

Recovering from Bad Checks

Speaking of robberies, help is on the way for merchants who have been stuck with "bad checks," those written against a closed account or against an account with insufficient funds.

The San Francisco County District Attorney's Office has introduced a Bad Check Restitution and Diversion Program, "intended to stop the bad check writer, return money to the merchant, and, whenever possible, rehabilitate the offender."

According to the DA, this program will operate without cost to the merchant, the taxpayers, or the City of San Francisco. All expenses will be borne by the offender.

The DA has also developed an information packet for merchants, which includes a description of the restitution program guidelines, a warning notice targeting would-be offenders, and a bad check report form. Though the restitution program does not cover forged or fictitious checks, the packet also contains tips on how to spot a forged check and a list of steps to follow when accepting checks.

I plan to distribute the packets to as many Noe Valley merchants as possible, but in the meantime shop owners may want to contact the bad check program by calling 1-800-454-6737 or writing District Attorney Restitution, c/o Computer Support Services, 8125 Sunset Ave., Suite 262, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

Assault Gun Confiscated

Two investigators for a bail bondsman got a rude surprise when they went in search of a woman who had jumped her \$20,000 bail.

On Feb. 17 at 1 p.m., the two investi-

gators apprehended the woman after she joined her boyfriend at his truck, which the investigators had staked out in the 1300 block of Church Street.

The woman, who was arrested without incident, insisted that documents which would show she had kept her court dates were inside her nearby home. She asked the investigators to allow her boyfriend to get the papers. They agreed.

But when the boyfriend returned, the investigators' suspicions were raised when they saw he had donned a coat. Then one investigator saw a gun handle sticking out of the boyfriend's waistband.

The investigator then produced his own weapon and ordered the boyfriend to the ground, while the other investigator handcuffed the suspect and removed his gun.

Officers Pat Correa and Mark Brandenburg responded and took custody of the two suspects. During a further search of the man, the police found a *shuriken*, a martial arts throwing star, in his wallet. He was booked on four weapons charges, two of which were felonies. The woman was booked on her outstanding warrants, which included grand theft and narcotics charges from San Bruno.

The seized weapon was an Intratec 9mm Luger, a banned assault gun, and held a clip containing 15 bullets. The weapon is now locked up, but the man who was arrested was released on his "own recognizance" Feb. 22, per the judge in Department 10. He was scheduled to appear at a pre-trial conference on March 23.

Watch out for Saturdays

Meanwhile, there were four reported burglaries within my area of Noe Valley in February.

One residential garage break-in occurred on a Saturday between midnight and 10 a.m. on the 900 block of Dolores Street. The remaining three burglaries were of

Mission CPOP Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that stretches from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia. To reach her, call 647-2767.



private homes. Two happened on a Saturday—one at 2 p.m. on the 3500 block of 21st Street, and another at 8:30 p.m. on the 400 block of Hill Street.

Regarding the December mass vehicle accident on the 700 and 800 blocks of Elizabeth Street, which I wrote about in last month's column, the suspect pled no contest on March 2 and was found guilty of driving under the influence of alcohol. He was sentenced to six months suspended sentence and five days in the county jail, with two days credit for time served. He was also ordered to pay a \$1,121 fine and make restitution to the owners of the 13 cars he hit.

A SAFE Bet

Are you interested in joining a neighborhood watch group? Contact Safety Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) at 553-1984. The organization is a great, FREE resource for personal and premise safety.

Until next time, be alert and I'll see you on patrol. □

Officer Lois Perillo is a member of the San Francisco Police Department's Community Police On Patrol (CPOP) program. Her beat centers on 24th Street and extends from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia streets. She can be reached at Mission Station at 647-2767.



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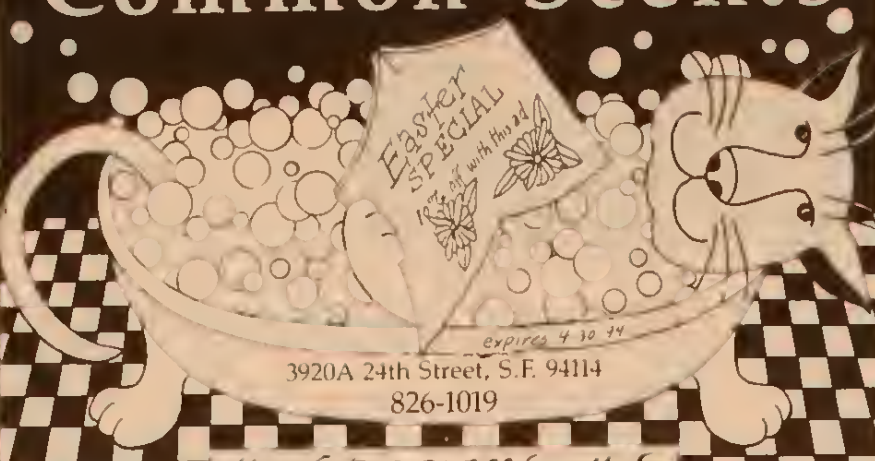


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Look Around You—There Are Friends And Family For the Asking

By John Bird

Noe Valley writer Kristin Anundsen has given some serious thought to the concept of community and what it means in our lives. And together with Berkeley author Carolyn Shaffer, she has written a handbook on the subject, *Creating Community Anywhere*, published in 1993 by Jeremy P. Tarcher/Perigee Books.

The book is chock-full of tips on how to create and maintain support groups, social clubs, and other extended families. But its main point, says Anundsen, is this: starting a community can be as easy as holding a garage sale.

A few years ago, she notes, two residents on her block of 27th Street wanted to have a block-long garage sale, followed by a potluck dinner. They put flyers in their neighbors' mailboxes, and the resulting event was such a success that they did it again the following year. The get-together also spurred several residents to form a neighborhood watch group.

"It was so simple," says Anundsen. "If people are really yearning for something like that, all it takes is one person to get the ball rolling." Now, she adds, the group of neighbors gathers for a meeting once every couple of months.

"A lot has been said and written about how we don't have community anymore," Anundsen says. "What we discovered during our book research was, yes, some of the old forms aren't working so well—the



Twenty-seventh Street resident Kristin Anundsen (center) often makes surprise acquaintances while walking her Australian shepherd, Josie, on Church Street. PHOTOS BY IRENE KANE.

little towns where everybody knew everybody else are disappearing. Families don't stay together like they used to. People move all the time."

And on top of that, she points out, one quarter of the American population lives alone.

But new forms of community are always being born, says Anundsen, from "co-housing," an approach to residential living that combines private and shared living spaces, to "electronic communities," both of which are discussed in her book.

"If the old-style communities don't work anymore, we have to have forms that are more suitable to our mobile, busy lifestyles. And a lot of people are doing just that—designing new forms and trying out new techniques."

Anundsen began learning about these innovations when she joined a community study group in the late 1980s. It was in this group that she met Berkeley resident and future co-author Shaffer.

"We discovered a group of people who felt that community was a good thing,

that the world should have more of it, that we should have more of it. But we weren't exactly sure what we meant by that," she said.

Over the next four years, Anundsen and Shaffer evolved a definition, which in *Creating Community Anywhere* they've pared down to five points: "Community is a dynamic whole that emerges when people participate in common practices, depend on one another, make decisions together, identify themselves as part of something larger than the sum of their individual relationships, and commit themselves... to their own, one another's, and the group's well-being."

A community can be as small as a couple living together, or as large as a state. "Even our planet is a community of sorts," says Anundsen.

The book also maintains that communities go through identifiable phases as they mature and evolve. A community's lifespan depends on its members' level of commitment—what they want out of it, and what they're willing to put in.

Anundsen herself grew up in the Mid-

west and spent a decade in New York City before coming to the Bay Area. Over time, she built up a network of friends and colleagues on both coasts and participated in a variety of support groups and social organizations.

When she moved to Noe Valley from Russian Hill 12 years ago, she admits that she wasn't looking for community as much as an inexpensive place to live. Nevertheless, she discovered that she had chosen one of the more community-oriented neighborhoods in San Francisco.

In chapter six of her book, "Turning Neighborhoods and Cities into Communities," an 11-point checklist suggests ways to assess your own neighborhood's success as a community. And according to Anundsen, Noe Valley rates a high score.

"It's a very inviting community," she says. "You've got the cafes and shops where people can meet and congregate."

"You've got very active neighborhood associations, babysitting co-ops, a neigh-



Kristin Anundsen, co-author of *Creating Community Anywhere*, says Noe Valley is fertile ground for planting and sustaining relationships.

10 Ways to Widen Your Support Circle

The following is a list of steps you can take to get to know your neighbors, excerpted from *Creating Community Anywhere*, Carolyn Shaffer and Kristin Anundsen's guide to finding connection in a fragmented world.

1. Take time to learn the names of your local merchants and their employees, not to mention the folks who live next door to you.
2. Children and pets are good icebreakers. Approach other parents, or send out postcards, suggesting a babysitting co-op.
3. If your neighborhood does not publish a newsletter or newspaper, start one. [Or get involved with an already-existing one. —Ed.]
4. Find a place to hold neighborhood meetings and events.
5. Organize small events that will bring different age groups together—such as storytelling by elders at the neighborhood library.
6. Contact the local police department and ask for help in sponsoring a block meeting to discuss safety. Plan for a social time, with refreshments afterwards.
7. Start a neighborhood "salon," a home gathering for poetry readings, concerts, or the exchange of ideas.
8. Invite your next-door neighbors for dinner and suggest a meal rotation, with one household cooking one day a month.
9. Place an ad suggesting the formation of a theater group.
10. The next time you get together with neighbors who are interested in strengthening community bonds, bring along a book or article as a discussion starter. □

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borhood library with ongoing events, and plenty of opportunity for interaction on the street—people don't just stay locked up in their houses. Not only that, Noe Valley residents constitute a diversity of ethnic groups, ages, occupations, and income levels, which makes a community much richer and multidimensional. All the ingredients are here."

Noe Valley's strong neighborhood identity, Anundsen adds, is also bolstered by locally owned businesses run by merchants who are active in the community's affairs. In addition, numerous neighborhood churches provide space to hold a variety of meetings and events.

The Noe Valley Ministry, for example, "is much more than a place for Presbyterians to gather on Sundays," Anundsen writes in the book. "The building also houses the offices of the neighborhood newspaper [the *Voice*] and a co-op nursery, and draws a diverse group of residents to such events as jazz concerts, monster movies, art exhibits, Scottish dancing classes, and theater games."

Of course, no community—not even Noe Valley—ever achieves perfection, says Anundsen.

"It's always a process, and it's always changing. But you can stay on the right track by involving as many people as possible, by always listening to each other, and by making sure to balance the welfare of the community as a whole with the welfare of the individuals in it."

"Those two things are absolutely interdependent." □

Anundsen's *Creating Community Anywhere* is available at *Cover to Cover* bookstore on 24th Street and *Aardvark Books* on Church Street.



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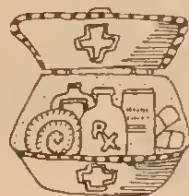
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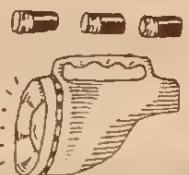
We've told you once, we've told you twice, now we'll tell you once again: The Big One is still lurking, threatening to shake us out of our complacency (and/or house). So take heed of this list of earthquake preparation aids suggested by the California Office of Emergency Services.

A Fire Extinguisher
Your fire extinguisher should be suitable for all types of fires and should be easily accessible.



First-Aid Kit
The kit should be in a central location and should include a list of emergency instructions.

Wrench
Have a crescent or pipe wrench on hand to turn off gas and water valves.



Flashlight
Keep flashlights (and extra batteries) in several locations in case of a power failure.

Water, Disinfectant
Store several gallons of water for each person, plus a disinfectant like chlorine bleach to purify it.

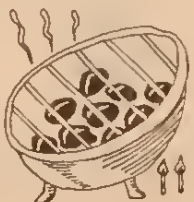


Blankets, Clothing
Extra blankets and clothing may be necessary to keep warm, and a sturdy pair of shoes is always a plus.



Radio and Batteries
Transistor radios will be useful for receiving emergency broadcasts and current disaster information.

Dry or Canned Food, Money
Store a week's supply of food for each person. Also, stash some cash and some quarters for the pay phones.



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700 Noe St. (Model photo of a design in progress)

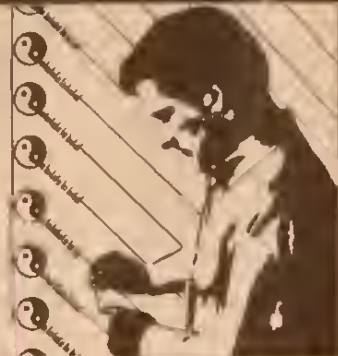
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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

Valking in a Vinter Vonderland

The 1994 Olympic Winter Games are over, but for many of us with Scandinavian roots, the memories linger like a warm blanket. We loved the sports events, of course. But we especially appreciated the opening and closing ceremonies, thoughtfully interwoven with mythical, environmental, and historical themes that blended perfectly with the crisp, pristine character of that hospitable little hamlet, Lillehammer. And all of this we viewed from the comfort of our sofas, thanks to our window on the world, television!

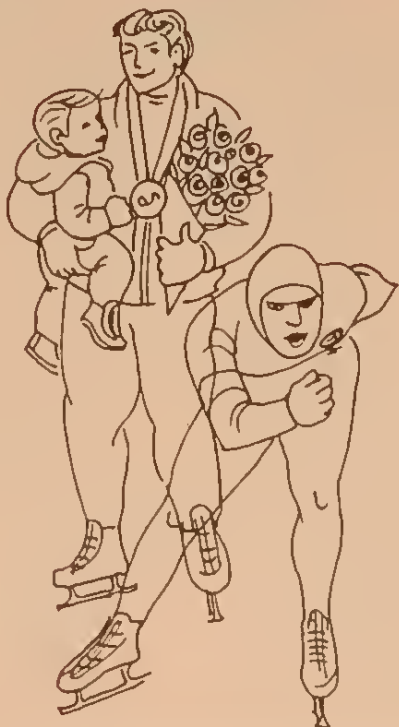
The ceremonies began with an outdoor shot of a gigantic dark image cut into a snowy mountainside, of a running man holding the Olympic torch. This image was modeled after the figures carved on rocks and cast in bronze a thousand years ago by the Vikings.

As the events progressed, that same stark figure reappeared as a logo on signs and posters, only altered slightly to designate the sport of the moment—figure skating, skiing, bobsledding, hockey, etc.

The figure was also featured as the official Olympic souvenir, which was created out of the very rocks removed from the mountain to make room for a large rink where the hockey competitions were held. How sensible, how practical, how environmentally correct—how Viking!

Long ago, when the Norsemen were forced to leave their homeland because of poverty and overcrowding, they left "picture stones" wherever they went, to record historical events or to praise exceptional leaders. As in any culture, some of these Norsemen were brutal warriors who gave the Vikings a terrible reputation. But most were peaceful pioneers who were only searching for land.

They were mainly seafaring men—skilled shipbuilders and navigators who



ventured to almost every corner of the earth. Frequently settling on unoccupied coastlines, the Vikings are credited with founding the cities of York, Dublin, Rouen, Reykjavik, and Kiev, to name just a few.

Recent excavations have proven that they had a settlement in Newfoundland on the east coast of North America, in about 1000 A.D.

They left their mark in Finland, too. When my man Leo and I traveled there in 1983, we were privileged to observe a "find" made by my second cousin, Hugo Berg. He stumbled upon it in 1978 while searching for copper deposits in the *skoogan* (forest) with a metal detector.

At midday, as he sat down to rest and have lunch in a rocky clearing, Hugo noticed a clump of peat moss hanging from an upright stone. The moss looked

as if it had been kicked off by an elk attempting to jump over the stone. Some unnatural lines behind the loose moss caught his attention, so he carefully lifted the clump to examine it more closely. In astonishment he beheld a carving on the stone that appeared to be manmade and ancient.

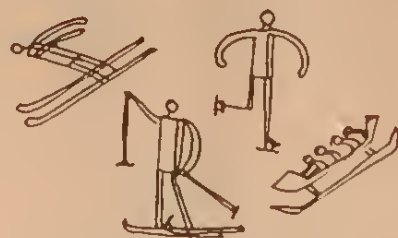
Hugo realized that this was something that should be studied methodically, so he informed the authorities and universities. Soon scholars, scientists, archeologists, linguists, poets, writers, and historians converged upon the quiet rural community of Vora, each bringing a different point of view, which instigated a heated controversy that is still going on.

Many declared the carving to be a fake, but the wife of Thor Heyerdahl, explorer and anthropologist of *Kontiki* fame, was convinced that it was genuine. She argued that it could have been the work of a clan from Norway who traveled from Trondheim, which is 200 kilometers north of Lillehammer, during the Viking era (8th through 11th century). They passed through Sweden, but after that there is no record of what happened to them. The picture stone may be the key.

When Leo and I hiked to the spot in 1983, Hugo folded back the moss for us to see, and I made a sketch of what was there: a Viking ship, three moons, an arrow pointing upward, and one line of runic inscriptions in the old Norse alphabet.



Florence's sketch of the inscription on a rock outside Vora, Finland.



According to one of the many scholarly translations, the line meant: "A monument to our gods Tyr and Njord." But I like Leo's unofficial interpretation: "In memory of our Tyr and Njord, who came in a boat three moons (months) ago, died, and went up to the afterlife."

Later, the discovery of a second stone with many lines of Viking writings, and also the recollections of a very old man who recalled seeing three stones (but was unable to remember just where), spurred the search even more.

During the Olympics, the happy people of Norway also reminded me of my Swede-Finn relatives in Finland, as well as the Swedish-speaking colony that flourished in Noe Valley earlier in the century, with their warm, friendly natures.

When one of the Norwegian contestants mentioned the main "ewent," I was reminded of my father's accent. He used to sing a cowboy song, but I cannot remember any of the words except for "the vind in the Walley." My friend Anne Michel, who lives in Noe Valley, had a Norwegian father whose speech was similar to my dad's, so her enjoyment of the Olympics was also colored by fond recollections.

Her dad often told her to eat her "vegetables" so that she would be full of "wim, wigor, and witality."

And both of our fathers recounted this tall tale: "A hundred Svedes ran tru de veeds chased by vun Norvegian!"

There may be a grain of truth in that boast, for the Norwegians won 26 medals at the games, more than any other nation.

All of the American athletes made us extremely proud of their victories and courageous efforts. And who was not moved by the triumph of skater Dan Jansen from Wisconsin? But if I am not mistaken, Jansen is a Scandinavian name. Vasn't he yust vunderful! □

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P O E M

PEARL AT 18 MONTHS

By Stephen Vincent

What does your dad go through?
As I write this it's 4:30 in the afternoon.
Your play group—Sage & Katie—left an hour ago.
We walk down to the Bubble Park.
You lean forward and trot at a precarious tilt.
Dogs excite you, "Doggie, doggie," and birds.
The sky's clear with dark clouds on all horizons.
Yesterday it rained 24 hours straight.
This morning the two empty garbage cans,
a foot of water in their bottoms.
When we walk up Elizabeth Street you spot four wild canaries
who land in a parkway and then ascend to a telephone wire.
Just now, back at the house, you eat your second apple of the day.
You say, "Up," and want up on my lap where you now sit.
One finger on my journal page, you shout at Holly, our new gray cat,
to "get down" from another chair.
You flip apple skin pieces off the table onto the floor.
Pluck my ear with thumb and forefinger.
Try to feed me your apple.

You are between words and sentences.

Stephen Vincent is a 21st Street resident whose sixth book of poetry, Walking, was recently published by Junction Press.



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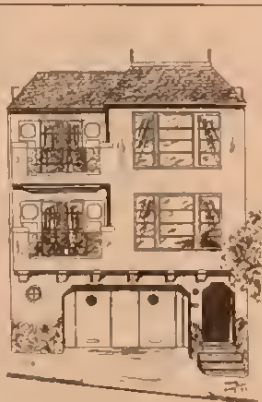
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Girls' Day Out: Four expeditioners from the Katherine Michiels School wait to embark on a field inspection of the boutiques of Noe Valley. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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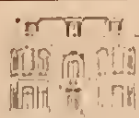
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Easter Bunny Shows How to Put All Your Eggs in One Basket

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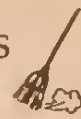
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To protect your health, call today for a mammogram appointment at St. Luke's Breast Health Center. You do not need to see your doctor to make an appointment for a mammogram. However, your test results will be sent to your doctor. If you do not have a doctor, St. Luke's Physician Referral Service can help you find one you can trust and who understands your needs. Call St. Luke's Physician Referral Service at 821-DOCS.

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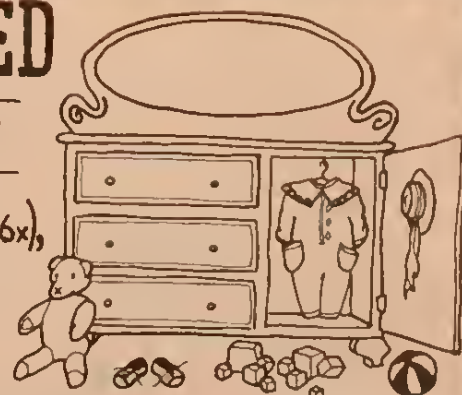
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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Denise Minor

Erik Wilson

When Erik Wilson was born at St. Luke's Hospital on Dec. 27, 1992, at 9:56 a.m., he joined a large and gregarious family with widespread roots in Noe Valley. Mother Robin Wilson, 5-year-old brother Aaron Wilson, and grandmother Edith Wilson welcomed all 6 pounds, 7 ounces of him to their Clipper Street home. So did 20-some aunts, cousins, and in-laws.

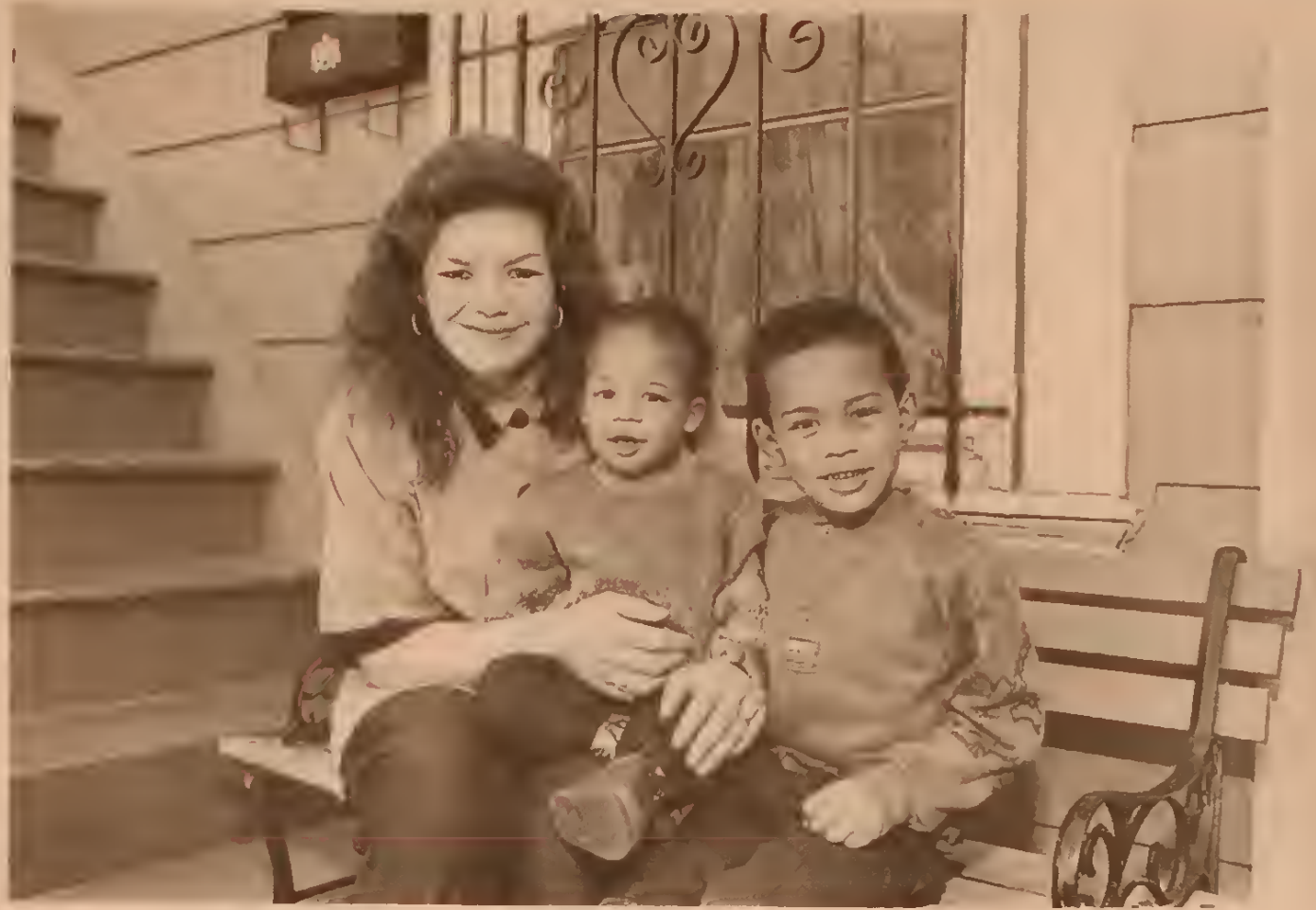
"My whole family lives in Noe Valley," says Robin, 25, who declares she wouldn't settle anywhere else. "I was born at St. Luke's, and when I was 13, I moved in with my grandmother on Clipper Street." Robin recently got her own place, but she's still on the same block of Clipper as her grandmother.

Just seven years ago, Robin was "one of those McAteer teenagers hanging out at Happy Donuts," she says. Now she's a proud mother strolling down 24th Street with her two sons.

"When we go to 24th Street, everyone knows Aaron at Bell Market, the Noe Valley Bakery, and Thrifty. He talks to everyone," she says. Little brother Erik is following in Aaron's footsteps and becoming a well-known Noe Valley kid.

"Everyone can't believe how much they look alike," says Mom. "When people see photos of Aaron as a baby, they think it's Erik." Both boys are Filipino and African American, with golden brown skin and "Filipino eyes and noses," she adds.

One piece of advice that Robin has for anyone contemplating motherhood is to



Robin Wilson with sons Erik, 1, and Aaron, 5. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

make sure that they are ready emotionally and physically. "Having kids has made my life fuller," she says, "but I can't just think of me all the time. I always put the kids first. Before, I was selfish. I only thought of Robin, Robin, Robin."

Being a single mom takes true grit, but Robin's tight-knit family has been a godsend. "Grandma helps a lot," says Robin. "She's a big influence for me and for the kids."

And during her labor, she adds, her Aunt Susie Cratty, "was with me through the whole thing."

Another big influence in all their lives was Aunt Sally Hernandez, who passed away after a stroke on Feb. 22, 1993. She

lived at Day and Church streets, and was always lending a hand with the kids.

"She was a wonderful aunt," recalls Robin. "She always used to go to Small Frys and buy clothes for the boys."

The aunts, the grandma, and Ernice Fagan of Fagan's Daycare have provided an extended family for the two boys, as well as for Robin, who, in addition to parenting, is also a student in the legal assistance program at San Francisco Community College. And she's grateful for their support.

"Those two boys are a handful," she laughs. "But they are real good boys, and I just treat them the way that comes instinctively—like I would want to be treated, with respect and love." □

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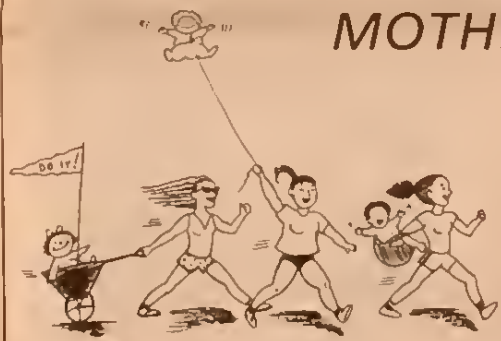


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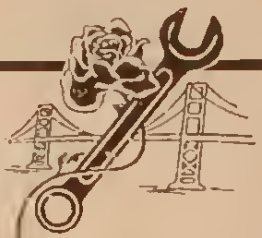
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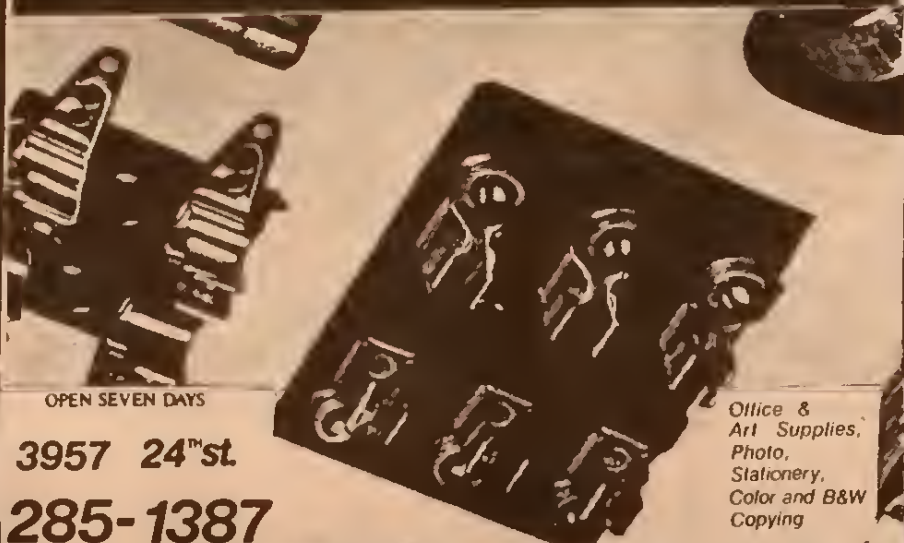
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By A. D. Winans

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 In your loose-leaf notebook
 The city is your slaughterhouse
 Like a wife it accommodates
 Your moods
 Doesn't seem to mind
 Your giving her a bad name
 You walk the streets
 A hungry vampire
 Lapping up your own blood
 On nights when word transfusions
 Are not enough

Church Street resident A. D. Winans is
 a native San Franciscan and the author
 of several books of poetry.



• MORE Books to Read •

Librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small invite you to check out the new books available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Info.: 695-5095.

Adult Fiction

• *Come to Me*, a highly praised collection of short stories by psychotherapist Amy Bloom, portrays families in crisis as well as individuals in and out of love.

• *The Palace Thief* by Eithan Canin, author of *Emperor of the Air*, consists of four contemporary stories portraying characters confronted with the unexpected.

• In *They Whisper*, author Robert Butler explores the past and present relationships of a middle-aged man who adores women.

• A brilliant exposé of middle-class suburbia, *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides delves into the enigmatic lives and deaths of five teenage sisters.

Adult Non-Fiction

• *The Cosmetics Buying Guide*, a Consumer Reports book by Andrew Scheman, M.D., and David Severson, evaluates hundreds of brand-name cosmetics and skin care products.

• *Foiling at Fairness*, a treatise by Myra and David Sadker, examines the sexism and gender bias prevalent in American schools.

• Geared to women at every stage of life, *Nutrition for Women* by Elizabeth Somer is a compilation of female nutritional guidelines based on over 2,000 scientific studies.

• *Selected Poems* by Rita Dove, poet laureate of the United States, contains selections from her four previous poetry books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Thomas and Beulah."



Children's Fiction

• A man expecting to spend a quiet evening at home reading has a very different kind of experience in *Pigs A-Plenty Pigs Galore!* by David McPhail. (Ages 3-5.)

• In *Class Play with Ms. Vanilla* by Fred Ehrlich, the teacher turns out to be a surprising member of the cast. (Ages 6-8.)

• In *Grandfather's Journey*, recently awarded the Caldecott Medal, San Francisco author-illustrator Allen Say conveys a variety of poignant experiences and feelings, results of having grown up in two cultures. (Ages 6 and up.)

• With the help of a dream, Yoshi finally comes to see his lake as something precious, before it is too late, in *Screen of Frogs*, a Japanese folk tale retold by Sheila Hamanaka. (Ages 6-9.)

• A child wonders what it might be like to say goodbye, in her own special way, to a beloved uncle in *I'll See You in My Dreams* by Mavis Jukes. (Ages 8 and up.)

• During the year she is in seventh grade, 12-year-old Alice gives a dinner party, gets a new nickname from her male classmates, and deals with other issues in *Alice in April* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. (Ages 10 and up.)

• Felipe, his sister Romy, and their mother use ingenuity and courage as they escape from El Salvador and journey toward Canada in *Grab Hands and Run* by Frances Temple. (Ages 10 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

• Because so many men went to fight in World War II, several women's major league baseball teams were formed; the story of these teams is told in *A Whole New Ball Game* by Sue Macy. (Ages 10 and up.)



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Abandoned Cars.....	781-5865
Curb Painting.....	554-2323
DPW (24-hour emergency).....	695-2020
Graffiti Removal.....	695-2017
Hazardous Spills (on street).....	861-8020
Hazardous Waste Hotline.....	554-4333
Illegal Parking.....	553-1200
Noise (construction related).....	558-6060
Noise (nuisance—police).....	563-1012
Parking Meters (out of order).....	550-2739
Parking Permits (residential).....	554-5000
San Francisco Beautiful.....	421-2608
Street Cleaning (to remove illegally dumped items or garbage).....	695-2017
Streetlights (out of order).....	554-0730
Street Signs.....	554-9870
Towed Cars (to retrieve).....	553-1235
Traffic Signals (out of order).....	550-2736
Water Dept. (street breaks).....	550-4911
HEALTH	
Animal Care and Control.....	554-6364
Animal Disposal.....	334-0111
Child Abuse Reporting.....	665-0757
Drug Information Hotline.....	752-3400
Fire (non-emergency).....	861-8000
Poison Control Center.....	1-800-523-2222
Police/Fire Emergency.....	911
Police (non-emergency).....	553-0123
Suicide & Crisis Line.....	221-1423
HOME	
Building Inspection.....	558-6087
Electrical Inspection.....	558-6030
Pacific Bell.....	611
PG&E.....	974-1555
Plumbing Inspection.....	558-6054
Sidewalk Inspection.....	554-5860
Sunset Scavenger.....	330-1300
Viacom Cable.....	863-9600
Water Dept. (home emergencies)	923-2400
THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE	
Muni Routes and Schedules.....	673-6864
Time.....	POPCORN (767-8900)
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BY LORI CARSTENS



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February was National Cruise Vacation Month, so we did our best to see that more residents of Noe Valley thought about cruising. Rosalinda del Moral will definitely be planning a cruise for her vacation: she is the winner of the Free Cruise co-sponsored by Cruise Holidays and RCCL in February's promotion!



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Just Fooling

WOULD YOU BELIEVE that the San Francisco Parking and Traffic Department has removed all parking meters from 24th Street, and cars can now be parked diagonally?

Or that Rec and Park has recently allocated \$85,000 to repair and maintain the bathroom facilities at Noe Courts?

You also might go for the news that Muni has decided to rebuild the Castro Street cable car line.

And then there's the latest flash: gold was discovered at Gold Mine Hill on April 1, 1994. Profits will be shared equally among the residents of Noe Valley and Diamond Heights.



WELL, IT MAY BE APRIL FOOL'S, but the residents of 22nd Street from Noe to Sanchez, Sanchez Street from 22nd to 25th, and Dolores Street from 25th to Randall (whew!), may not be laughing from April through August. We're talking major power shovels and bulldozers and other earth movers from dawn to dusk, drastically altering traffic and parking patterns.

According to Tom Dickerman, distribution manager for the San Francisco Water Department, the utility is laying down a 36-inch water pipe in hopes of solving "one of the last problem areas in the city."

The problem, Tom explains, is that there is only one existing water line serving greater Noe Valley at the present time. It's old and in need of repair, but can't be shut down without cutting us off. So by installing a new line, the city can "provide an alternate feed from the Sunset Reservoir [28th and Pacheco] as an important redundancy in the system. This will permit us to repair the main line, and will also be an alternative in an earthquake," he said.

As I'm sure you noticed, the project actually started at 22nd and Noe the first week in March.



BETHANY GETS A LIFT. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony in mid-April at Bethany Methodist Church (Clipper and Sanchez), to celebrate the installation of a new elevator that will take riders and wheelchairs from street to sanctuary.

John Nelson, who heads Bethany's board of trustees, says the two-year \$24,000 project was undertaken "to open the church to everybody and especially to give disabled and handicapped people

and now for the RUMORS behind the news BY MAZOOK

better access to our services." Good work, John.



NOT UPLIFTING is the squabble that has developed between the owners of Tung Sing, the Chinese takeout on 24th near Noe, and neighbors living behind on Jersey Street.

It seems that Tung Sing wants to expand the restaurant in back, by adding a room to contain a walk-in refrigerator. It also plans to add a deck and storage area to another building at the back of the lot.

After the eatery asked City Planning for a variance, the neighbors launched a resistance movement with the help of the East & West of Castro Club.

"The neighbors are quite adamant about preserving the character of the neighborhood and protecting open space," says East & West's Paul Kantus. "But we are meeting with the architect, and both parties have been going through Community Boards to try to mediate their differences."

Everyone showed up at a Planning Commission meeting March 17, but the hearing was postponed until the end of April.

Speaking of East & West, congratulations to Sybil Abeyta, a recipient of the group's "Good Citizen Award" for all her efforts in keeping Diamond Street swept neat and clean. The award is a \$50 gift certificate to the Noe Valley Walgreen's.



SIXTY YEARS AGO John Sargento opened a shoe repair shop at 3985 24th St. (where Gladrag's is now), which he called Mission Renewing.

Arthur and Helen Weinschenk bought Sargento's shoe repair business in 1946 and renamed it the Wooden Heel. The couple worked at the shop together for the next two decades, until Arthur passed

away in the early '60s.

Helen continued to run the shop until 1976, when Barry and Patti Wood bought it from Helen. However, Helen stayed on to work part-time. In December 1981, the store moved up the street to its current location, 4071 24th St.

The upshot of all this is that Barry and Patti and Helen, who still works in the store (she's 82 years young), are now planning to throw a 60th anniversary celebration for the shop. The party will take place May 7, and will go on all day at the shop.

It might interest you to know that when Helen and her husband bought the store in 1946, there were eight other shoe repair shops on 24th Street between Dolores and Diamond. Wooden Heel is the only survivor.

When you go to the party, ask Barry to show you his Landis stitching machine, vintage 1910, which he says, "still works great." And Patti wants you to pay special attention to the shop's boot sign out front, which she says is the last working "Renewing" sign left in the city of San Francisco.

"The shoe companies used to give the 'Renewing' signs to the shoe repair shops for free, and now it would cost us over \$18,000 to replace it. The thing has four transformers in it, and they don't make them like that anymore," smiles Patti.



MEANWHILE, OTHER PARTY rumors have been floating in the spring air. It seems that the Outer Noe Valley Merchants and the Upper Noe Neighbors have had some discussions about staging a third almost-annual Neighborhood Party at Upper Noe Recreation Center, featuring arts and crafts and entertainment by local musicians.

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But according to Upper Noe leader Janice Gendreau, the fair will only fly with assistance from groups like Friends of Noe Valley and East & West of Castro. "We need a commitment of time and effort as well as money from each neighborhood group," says Janice, who plans to use the Voice's "More Groups to Join" as a resource list.

The party could take place the first part of October, she says, "if I get anywhere from 7 to 12 dependable volunteers to assist in producing the thing."

If you want to help her drum up support, lobby your neighborhood association or give Janice a call at 641-5989.



SHORT SHRIFTS: To update you on my February item about the Tudor house (without a kitchen) that Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph built in 1929 at 21st and Sanchez—which is currently on the market for \$1.75 million—well, my sources tell me that the latest offer to be turned down by the owners was somewhere between \$1.2 and \$1.3 million. I guess that gives you some idea what a kitchen costs.

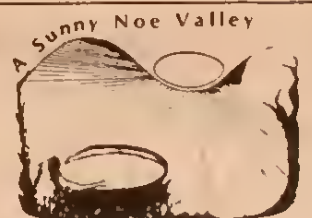
It looks as if Supercuts is set to open its discount hair control emporium on 24th Street (next to Hot Headz) on or about April 4.

Everyone is waiting to see what kind of *mangia* will come out of "Mangiamo," which according to the sign on the window should be opening soon at Sanchez and Duncan streets. Is this another cafe?

Geraldine Barr, sister of the famous Roseanne Arnold, reportedly lives in the neighborhood. But we won't see Roseanne, since the two don't talk.

Speaking of celebrities, the local angle to the Polly Klaas story is that her alleged kidnapper-murderer, Richard Allen Davis, was born and raised (for a short time) on Sanchez Street.

On that depressing note, I will bid you adieu. See you back here again next month. □



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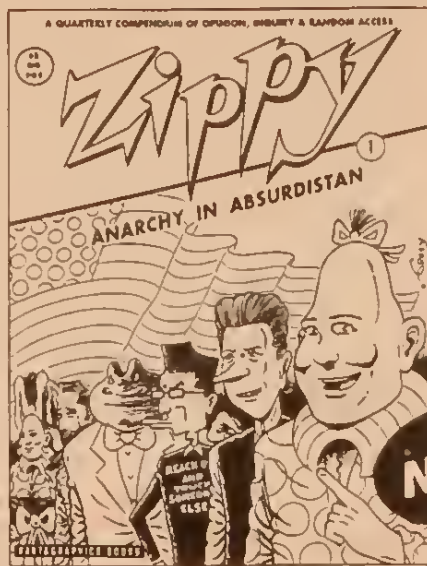


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WOMEN FROM DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES 10-week support group begins April 11. Learn how family patterns influence self-identity and present-day relationships. Focus on family roles, shame, codependency, intimacy, inner child, changing negative patterns. Individual counseling also available. Marre Farrington, M.F.C.C. No. 24893. 282-5965.

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BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN NOE VALLEY has space available for rent. Have the privacy of second floor—two rooms, toilet, sink, use of deck with view of Twin Peaks, while sharing entire home with professional, fun-loving, 45, white single female. No cigarette smoke, no live-in children, no dogs. \$550 monthly. 267-1885.

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PRANAYAMA AND MEDITATION COURSE. Class for those interested in stress reduction, better physical health, and improved concentration. You will learn and experience the fundamental techniques of pranayama (breath control) and meditation. Taught by Bhanu Beacon. Six Mondays beginning April 4, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 94110. 821-1117.

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LIVING AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN: A Stop Abusive Behavior Syndrome workshop for parents and professionals. Sponsored by the West Coast Center for Social Therapy. Noe Valley. Saturday, April 30, 2 to 4 p.m. \$18. 267-0518.

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HELP WITH YOUR MATH HOMEWORK? Algebra, calculus, engineering math, 3D AutoCAD illustration and rendering. Design engineer turned multimedia developer seeks tutoring clients. Twelve years' hands-on experience, Silicon Valley; five-plus years' experience using and training others on 3D work stations. 626-1312. Sliding scale for students and unemployed.

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TAI CHI CLASSES in Noe Valley. Morning classes. All levels are welcome. For further information call 648-2435.

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COMPUTERS FOR SALE 386-40 motherboard, \$110; 286-12 1/40 14-inch amber monitor, mouse, \$300; thermal wax color printer, \$825. 626-1312. Computer repair, training, programming, and network support per your needs.

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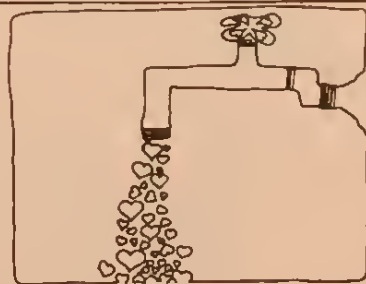
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MEDITATION WORKSHOP This is a practical workshop that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Taught by Dee Benefield, Thursday, April 21, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$6. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 94110. 821-1117.

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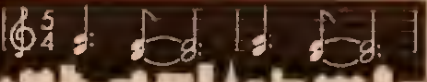
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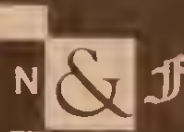


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SAFE RELAXING MASSAGE FOR WOMEN. Swedish and shiatsu massage available in my home between the Castro and Noe Valley. Perfect for pregnant and postpartum women, too. Sliding scale. First session discount. Gift certificates available. Member A.M.T.A. Cat Lambert, 641-4463.

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OVERWEIGHT? We need people who are seriously interested in losing weight and then making good money helping others! Call 826-8504.

ITALIAN LESSONS from native speaker. Individuals and groups, grammar and conversation—all levels. Luisa, 641-1311.

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TAX PREPARATION, accounting services. Friendly CPA specializing in small businesses and individuals. Reasonable rates, half-hour free consultation. Ten percent discount when you mention this ad. Jack, 826-2958.

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PIANO LESSONS with credentialed, experienced Noe Valley teacher. Classical approach including ear training and theory. All ages welcome. Barbara Bennett, 648-1007.

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CLEANINGHOUSE. Home, office, apartment and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513. References.

POETRY WANTED: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poetry related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

EXPERT HOUSE CLEANER. Fast, thorough, and careful. Oone to your specifications. Ten years' experience. Expert garden care also. Call Margaret, 824-0894.

How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you'd like the ad to appear.

Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from a previous issue. (But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.)

Reward for Longevity: The Voice comes out 10 times a year—we don't publish in January and August. If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. Just deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

To place an ad in the May 1994 issue, which will hit the streets Wednesday, May 4, mail your ad copy and a check made payable to the Noe Valley Voice so that we receive it by April 15. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone or drop-in orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

BED AND BREAKFAST. Visiting family and friends will enjoy the lovely Noe Valley home, gracious hostess, and scrumptious breakfasts at Liz's Bed and Breakfast. 648-2515.

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HOURS:
MON-SAT 11-6 SUN 1-5

CALENDAR

APRIL 1 & 2: The Community MUSIC Center registers new students for the spring quarter. Fri., 3-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

APRIL 2: St. Paul's Altar Society seeks volunteers for its Holy Saturday church CLEANUP 9 am-3:30 pm. 221 Valley St. 648-7538

APRIL 2: FAE MYENNE NG and Mark Coovellis discuss their novels at the Main Library's literary series. 3 pm. Lurie Room, Civic Center. 557-4277.

APRIL 2: The "Easter Abominations" FILM program sponsored by Artists' Television Access includes Bunuel's satire *Simon of the Desert* 8:30 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Precita Eyes sponsors Saturday MURAL WALKS in the Mission District. 1:30 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 285-2287

APRIL 4: Noe Valley architect Charles Pick offers a tree workshop on HOME REMODELING. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 956-7417

APRIL 5: The San Francisco City Chorus, which operates under the auspices of the Recreation and Park Department, holds AUDITIONS for singers who can read music. Call 861-6771 for an appointment.

APRIL 5: Dr. Betty Carmack moderates a free PET LOSS SUPPORT group for grieving pet owners. 7:30-9 pm. S.F. SPCA, 2500 16th St. 554-3000

APRIL 5, 19 & 26: STORY HOUR for preschoolers begins at 10 am at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 6: Project Inform offers an introductory TOWN MEETING to examine treatment and immune monitoring of HIV. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 558-9051

APRIL 6, 13, 20 & 27: Parents are invited to bring their infants and toddlers to LAPSITS at the Noe Valley Library. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

APRIL 6, 13, 20 & 27: Rev. Carl Smith and Phoebe McAtee lead a MEDITATION series, "Pilgrimage Home." 7:30-9:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

APRIL 7-9 & 14-16: CHOREOGRAPHER Michelle Spencer performs the West Coast premiere of "I Am Not a Bad Man." 8:30 pm. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

APRIL 7-10: Dancers Lori Behllove & Company present "The Art of ISADORA DUNCAN." Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797

APRIL 7-MAY 19: Carl Smith of the Noe Valley Ministry leads a Thursday evening class, "TAI CHI for Contemplation." 7:30-9 pm. Mercy Center, 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. 340-7474

APRIL 8, 9, 15 & 16: Jewish Performers' Showcase presents "Stars of David," dance, music, and THEATER to benefit the Women to Women project. New Performance Gallery, 3183 17th St. Call 550-2496 for schedule.

APRIL 9: OPTIONS for Women Over Forty offers a one-day PC/DOS COMPUTER training class. Call 431-6944 for time and location.

APRIL 9: All ages are welcome to attend Carol Preston's discussion of "Owls That Whoooo," featuring a live owl and games. 12:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

APRIL 9: The Noe Valley Music Series presents a performance by ROBERT RICH. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272 or 454-5238.

APRIL 10: Sutro & Co. sponsors "Gimme Shelter," a 5K RUN/1K WALK to benefit the homeless assistance program of St. Vincent de Paul Society. 9 am. Yerba Buena Center, 5th & Howard. 445-6338 or 647-6567

APRIL 10: The Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC Series presents the Golden Gate Brass Quintet performing "Carmen Revisited." 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

APRIL 10: Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, prayer, and meditation begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317



"A Matter of Thirst" will be among three works performed by Langridge Dance at Theater Artaud April 14-16.

APRIL 10: The S.F. City CHORUS performs Ovorak's *Mass in D Major* and Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*. 8 pm. St. Dominic's Catholic Church, Bush & Steiner. 563-1634.

APRIL 12: The Noe Valley Library screens FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

APRIL 12: Walden Bello discusses *Dark Victory: The U.S. Structural Adjustment and GLOBAL POVERTY*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

APRIL 13-JUNE 1: Ages 14 to 18 are invited to a class in ELECTRONIC ARTS, including learning to solder circuits to make electronic gadgets. Wednesdays, 4-5 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

APRIL 14: Sydney Metrick, author of *The Art of Ritual*, and Sondra Freudlich-Hall lead a RITUAL SALON, including a discussion of ceremonies. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4676

APRIL 14: Celebrate SECRETARIES DAY with Radical Women's discussion, "Women Workers: Sparkplugs of Labor." 6:45 pm. 523A Valencia St. 864-1278 or 334-1853.

APRIL 14: An anti-gratiti campaign and refurbishment of the library meeting room will be among the topics at the monthly get-together of the FRIENDS of Noe Valley. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 641-4681.

APRIL 14-16: Langridge DANCE presents three pieces, including "Landscape Memory: An Evocative, Unpredictable Meditation on the Union Between People and Place." 8 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

APRIL 14-JUNE 2: Children will be encouraged to develop their own expression in an ART WORKSHOP, "Kids Paint." Thursdays, 4:30-5:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 206-0402 or 864-5669

APRIL 15 & 16: The California Genealogical Society presents a FAMILY HISTORY FAIR, with a diverse program of classes and exhibits. Fri., noon-8 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm. Fashion Center, 8th & Townsend. 777-9936.

APRIL 16: Flora Slosson Wuellner leads a SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP, "Release! Recognizing and Healing the Wounds We Inherit and Internalize." 9 am-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 285-7438 to register by April 2

APRIL 16: The James Lick Middle School Band holds a CAR WASH. 11 am-3 pm. 1220 Noe St. 695-5675.

APRIL 16: Judy Stone leads a "Business of Crafts" WORKSHOP for women new to marketing their work. 9:30 am-4:30 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 285-0572.

APRIL 16: Noe Valley's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team participates in an EARTHQUAKE drill at James Lick. 10-11 am. Clipper & Castro. 695-0700.

APRIL 16: RHIANNON premieres her one-woman show, "A Bowlful of Sound." 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272 or 454-5238

APRIL 16-23: "One Neat City Week '94" encourages a citywide SPRING CLEANING effort. 553-2913

APRIL 17: The San Francisco Bike Coalition and S.L.U.G. sponsor a 20-mile community garden BICYCLE TOUR. 11 am-4 pm. Pack a lunch and meet at Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. & Lawton. 751-81KE.

APRIL 17: Beth Woolbright and Marinell Harriman teach a class in RA88IT CARE, including litterbox training and bunnyproofing your home. 1-4 pm. S.F. SPCA, 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

APRIL 17: David Engwicht, author of *Reclaiming Our Cities and Towns*, maintains that the AUTO AGE will be seen as "a brief blimp on the horizon of history." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

APRIL 17-23: "Libraries Change Lives" is the theme of National LIBRARY Week. Take a book to lunch.

APRIL 18 & 25: Free MEDITATION classes, offered by Sri Chinmoy Center, continue at Bethany Methodist Church. 7-8 pm. 201 Clipper St. 664-1327

APRIL 20: The Noe Valley Library offers a free screening of *The General*, starring BUSTER KEATON. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

APRIL 20: The Noe Valley Democratic Club makes its June primary election endorsements at its general membership MEETING. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-0549

APRIL 21: La Leche League's monthly meeting for MOTHERS includes a discussion of "The Benefits of Human Milk." 10 am. Natural Resources, 4077 1/2 A 24th St. 296-9937

APRIL 22-26: The Castro Theatre screens Allie Light and Irving Saraf's Sundance Film Festival winner, *Dialogues with MADWOMEN*. 429 Castro St. Call 621-6120 for showtimes



APRIL 29: Keane's 3300 Club hosts a POETRY READING featuring Jim Wilson, Joseph Millar, and an open mike. 7 pm. 29th & Mission. 824-0835

APRIL 29 & 30: Lick-Wilmerding High School presents a festival of ONE-ACT PLAYS by students. 7:30 pm. Ehrer Theatre, Geneva Ave. at Hwy. 280. 333-4021.



Swiss choreographer Tina Mantel will premiere her solo piece "Vor Bilder" at the New Performance Gallery April 29-30. PHOTO BY ANNE ROSSET

APRIL 23: Noe Valley residents are welcome to join in a morning TREE PRUNING at James Lick Middle School. 10 am-noon. 1220 Noe St. 695-5675

APRIL 23: Wind in the Willows invites all alumni and parents to a 21st birthday PARTY at the nursery school. Noon-3 pm. 1444 Church St. 285-3356.

APRIL 23: The Noe Valley Nursery School hosts a MASOQUADE ball fundraiser for all ages. 1-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2278.

APRIL 23: The Noe Valley Music Series presents the eastern European women's CHORUS Savina. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272 or 454-5238.

APRIL 23 & 24: Wise Fool Puppet Intervention performs "Touch/Prayer," a THEATER work honoring people living with AIDS/HIV. 7:30 pm. Dolores Park, Dolores & 19th St. 905-5958

APRIL 28: Gail Tsukiyama discusses her novel of RURAL CHINA, *Women of the Silk*. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4676

APRIL 30: James Lick Middle School sponsors a FLEA MARKET on the playground at Clipper and Castro. 9 am-3 pm. 695-5675.

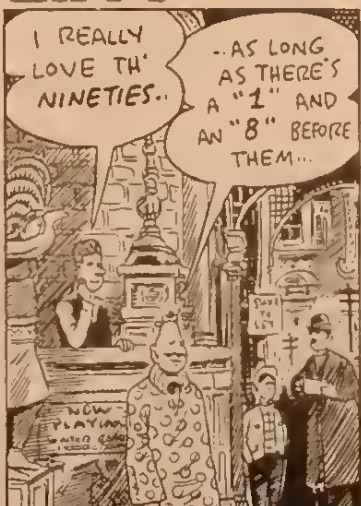
APRIL 30: The British IMPROV group AMM appears at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272 or 454-5238

APRIL 30 & MAY 7: The Friends of Noe Valley sponsors a class in SELF-DEFENSE. 9 am-1 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. For info call David Geren at 641-4681

MAY 1: Residents of the 200 block of 27th Street hold an all-day bake, plant, and RUMMAGE SALE. 27th between Church & Dolores. 403-5147

MAY 7: As part of its "Fundraiser for the Root," the Noe Valley Ministry will sponsor a group outing to Candlestick Park for a Giants-Oodgers BASEBALL game. 1 pm. Call Douglas Martin, 826-2142, or Karen Heather, 282-2317

ZIPPY



"CENTURY SURFING"



BILL GRIFFIN

The Scoop on Calendar

The next issue of the Noe Valley Voice will appear Wednesday, May 4, and will publicize calendar events occurring May 4 to 31. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. To make sure we have a chance to include your item, please mail us a notice by April 15. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.